Sunday, June 21, 2026 No 171 ₹8

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DH on Sunday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

The loyalist who tipped the balance in the TMC revolt

Sudip outmanoeuvres party founder Mamata after a series of denials

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Football underdogs are not waiting

No freebies on offer for traditional European and South American powerhouses in group stages

P12

Man alleges harassment in video before suicide; four held

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 41-year-old fruit vendor died by suicide after consuming aluminium phosphate, alleging that he was being harassed through a 'fake' atrocity case and repeated demands for money.

Before taking the extreme step, he reportedly recorded a video message in which he blamed a group of individuals for his death. Kadugodi police have detained four suspects on charges of abetment to suicide.

The deceased has been identified as Papanna, a resident of Channasandra in Kadugodi.

A senior police officer said that in the video, sent around 10.05 pm on Friday, Papanna alleged that Jogi Sheena, Prashanth, Narasappa, Radha, Nayana and eight others had falsely implicated him in an atrocity case and were harassing him for money. Papanna consumed aluminium phosphate and later died.

Papanna claimed in the video that the accused had earlier filed an atrocity case against him in 2021 and had allegedly received up to Rs 10 lakh to withdraw the case.

Papanna further alleged that the accused had once again filed a false case. Describing himself as a poor street vendor, he said he was unable to bear the harassment and appealed to the police to take action against those responsible.

Based on a complaint filed by the deceased's sister, Bhagya S, a social activist, Kadugodi police registered a case of abetment to suicide against the accused, treating the video as a suicide note, and took four of them into custody for further investigation.

MONSOON MISERY: Sudden showers expose weak drainage and transport gaps

Vehicles battle deep floodwater at Yelahanka underpass as Airport Road traffic slows to a crawl.

A car drives through a waterlogged stretch at Hagadur Junction towards Whitefield following heavy rainfall on Saturday. CREDIT: BTP

A traffic policeman walks along a waterlogged road near Nexus Whitefield.

A man pushes his two-wheeler through a flooded stretch near Nexus Whitefield.

Traffic moves through the waterlogged Sagar Metro Junction towards Dairy Circle.

Flooded roads paralyse the IT corridor

BENGALURU, DHNS

A sudden, intense spell of heavy evening rain lashed parts of East and Northeast Bengaluru on Saturday, bringing much-needed respite from the heat but exposing the city's vulnerable civic infrastructure yet again.

The IT corridor bore the brunt of the downpour, with Whitefield turning into a virtual 'FloodField', as described by a resident on X. A private rain gauge recorded 60 mm of rainfall in just a few hours in East and Northeast Bengaluru.

The heavy downpour left several prime junctions heavily waterlogged, crippling vehicular movement during peak weekend evening hours. According to traffic police, a major bottleneck was reported at the Yelahanka underpass, where deep waterlogging towards Airport Road severely slowed outbound traffic heading towards Kempegowda International Airport. Similarly, at the Sagar Metro Junction, commuters faced slow-moving traffic heading towards Dairy Circle due to rising water levels beneath the metro corridor.

Further worsening the evening rush, stagnant rainwater near the GRT Junction slowed traffic to a crawl from the city towards Hoskote, as well as from Bhattarahalli back into the city. Severe waterlogging was also reported along Hennur-Bagalur Main Road near Vaddarapalya Junction, where vehicles were forced to navigate through deep water. Areas near Kattalanur and Budigere Cross also witnessed relentless sheets of rain disrupting daily life early in the evening.

Police reported massive traffic congestion at KEB Junction towards Hennur, Varthur Kodi towards Whitefield, Hegde Nagar towards Thanisandra and the Madivala Ayyappa underpass. Prominent commercial hubs such as Nexus Whitefield and Phoenix Mall in Mahadevapura, along with the road heading towards Hoodi and roads near Kalyan Nagar, also reported submerged stretches, making it perilous for two-wheelers to navigate.

Ride out of reach as fares soar

Commuters in North, Northeast and East Bengaluru especially struggled to hail autos and cabs. "I was trying to hail an auto or a cab from Varthur, but had no luck despite waiting for almost two hours. Finally, once the rain subsided, I opted for a bike taxi out of desperation. Once we hit the road, I realised why I couldn't get a ride. The entire area was either waterlogged or jam-packed with traffic. I only made it through because I was on a bike," shared Lalith S, 24.

Many auto drivers declined rides to particular areas where waterlogging was reported. Commuters travelling from RT Nagar towards the CBD saw an almost 50% increase in fares on cab aggregator platforms. "I had to add an extra tip of Rs 100 on top of the already inflated fare to be able to get an auto from Cooke Town to Indiranagar. After I reached the destination, the auto driver still tried to haggle and asked me to add another Rs 50-100," said Sanchita Hegde, 35. Commuters also reported similar situations in and around Whitefield.

Light rain likely across city for five days

BENGALURU, DHNS: Residents can look forward to a welcome break from the heat as light to moderate showers are expected to lash the city over the next five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday. The precipitation is likely to be concentrated during the evening and night hours, allowing most daytime activities to continue unaffected.

IMD scientist C S Patil said the southwest monsoon remains active over the region and an upper-air cyclonic circulation has contributed to the recent spurt of thundershowers. "Bengaluru residents can treat this weather as a relief," he added, noting that there is no active severe weather system threatening the city and no heavy-rain alerts for the next five days.

Rainfall figures for Saturday showed variations across city locations: the IMD Bengaluru station recorded 5.8 mm, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recorded 29.8 mm and Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) received 16 mm. The department attributed these heavy thundershowers to the active monsoon phase coupled with the upper-air circulation.

The IMD said moisture transport from the Arabian Sea has been insufficient at times, leaving conditions highly dynamic. State cumulative figures show that Bengaluru Urban logged a seasonal rainfall deficit of 19% between June 1 and June 20, receiving 45.9 mm against the normal of 56.5 mm. In contrast, Bengaluru Rural enjoyed a 69% surplus following heavy downpours in the week ending June 17.

The local forecast for the next 48 hours predicts a partly cloudy sky that will turn generally cloudy by evening or night, with light to moderate rain likely.

Engineer's body recovered from Varthur sewage plant

Search on for missing worker

BENGALURU, DHNS

After an overnight search operation, teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Karnataka Fire and Emergency Services recovered the body of the supervising engineer from the sewage treatment plant in the early hours of Saturday. Two workers had gone missing while cleaning a wet well on Thursday.

The body of 30-year-old Agilan Mohan from Tamil Nadu was found at 3.50 am and lifted from the tank. It was later shifted to the hospital for a post-mortem examination.

A senior police officer said that the search operation, involving specialised rescue personnel and equipment, continued through the night amid challenging conditions. Efforts are underway to trace the second missing worker, Brijesh Kumar from Bihar.

A senior Fire and Emergency Services officer said the operation faced difficulties due to heavy rain, poor visibility and the accumulation of toxic gases inside the structure. On Saturday afternoon, rescue personnel temporarily suspended the search because of adverse weather, and it will continue on Sunday morning to trace the remaining worker.

The incident occurred on Thursday evening during maintenance operations at the sewage treatment facility maintained by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) at Belagere near Varthur. Preliminary findings indicated that the workers had entered the wet well to carry out maintenance work before they drowned, while another worker, Karthik, managed to get out of the tank and alerted the staff about the incident.

Meanwhile, Varthur police have registered a negligence case against the contractor engaged by BWSSB to execute the cleaning work. The case was registered based on a complaint lodged by BWSSB officials.

Chennai-based VATECH WABAG Limited carried out the cleaning operation in violation of BWSSB guidelines and mandatory safety protocols prescribed for work in confined spaces such as wet wells and sewage treatment units.

e-Khata drive clears over 6,100 applications in 6 weeks

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government's 'My e-Khata, My Right' campaign, launched under the Bhoo Guarantee Scheme, has helped dispose of 6,169 applications in the last six weeks, according to a statement shared by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

The campaign is being conducted at 50 locations across the five City Corporations under the GBA and aims to simplify access to e-Khata services while addressing long-pending property record issues.

Officials said the initiative has drawn a strong response from the public, with 13,835 citizens visiting the camps since its launch. The camps provide assistance with e-Khata registration, mutation, corrections, conversion of B-Khata to A-Khata and grievance redressal.

Through the initiative, applicants are able to receive quicker resolutions as officials verify documents, scrutinise applications, rectify technical errors and correct discrepancies in records at the camps themselves.

On Saturday, 1,206 citizens visited the campaign centres seeking assistance with various khata-related matters. Of these, 802 applications were resolved on the spot, the statement said.

The government launched the drive to streamline property documentation services and accelerate the disposal of pending applications.

Fraudsters fake son's arrest, dupe woman of Rs 1.25 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 46-year-old woman was allegedly extorted of Rs 1.25 lakh by cyber fraudsters who posed as police officers and falsely claimed that her son had been arrested in a gang-rape case.

According to a complaint registered at HAL police station, the incident took place on Thursday afternoon when the victim received a call from an international number. The caller introduced himself as a police officer and told the woman that her son had been taken into custody in connection with a gang-rape case.

During the call, another person spoke to her, pretending to be her son, further convincing her that he was in police custody. The fraudsters told her that an FIR had been registered against her son and that he would face serious legal consequences.

The callers then demanded money, claiming that the FIR could be cancelled and that

her son and his bike could be released if she paid the bribe. Believing the claims to be genuine, the woman transferred Rs 1.25 lakh through four separate transactions using QR codes shared by the accused. Later, the accused sought Rs 2 lakh towards what they described as a medical examination fee related to the case.

The woman further said that she repeatedly pleaded with the callers and begged them not to ask for more money. She even told the fraudsters that she would end her life if they continued to harass her and make such demands.

Speaking to *DH*, the complainant, a resident of Vignana Nagar, said that she initially believed the callers because they appeared to know details about her son, and he also did not answer her repeated calls at the time.

"I had already transferred Rs 1.25 lakh to the accounts and QR codes shared by them. When they later demanded another Rs 2 lakh, claiming it was required for medical tests, I became suspicious. My son is studying engineering at a private college in Mysuru. When the callers told me that he had been arrested, I repeatedly tried to contact him, but he did not respond as his phone was on silent mode while he was studying. I then called his friends, who checked on him and informed me that he was inside his room studying. Then I realised that I had been cheated and immediately approached HAL police and lodged a complaint."

Engineer suspended over substandard asphalting

BENGALURU, DHNS: An Assistant Executive Engineer in charge of Sampangirama Nagar has been suspended pending a departmental enquiry after it was observed that the asphalt laid on one of the roads in his jurisdiction was not up to the mark.

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byregowda, who observed that the quality was not up to the mark, asked the official to immediately check the quality and take necessary measures. "Today, I

Image for representation

observed asphalt work on one of the roads and I was doubtful of the quality. I asked the Commissioner to inspect this asphalt work. Indeed, the work was found to be substandard. The officer was suspended and the contractor penalised," Byregowda said.

According to an order passed by the Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner, the proportion of asphalt and the thickness were less than what they were supposed to be, resulting in poor-quality asphalting.

While the engineer was supposed to be in charge of checking the quality, he seems to have joined hands with the contractor and allowed poor-quality asphalting, the order noted.

HC directs BBMP to issue TDR for land acquired in 2012

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court has pulled up the BBMP (now GBA) for the non-issuance of Transferable Development Right (TDR)/Development Rights Certificate (DRC) even 14 years after the acquisition of land for road-widening work in Bengaluru.

"When the notification itself indicated grant of TDR after relinquishment deeds are executed and relinquishment deeds being executed, it would not mean that the BBMP can show hands off or wash off its hands to grant compensation for acquisition of land of the citizen," Justice M Nagaprasanna said in his order, while directing the BBMP to issue TDR/DRC within three months.

The petitioners, Lakshmi and four others, moved the court questioning the failure on the part of the BBMP to issue DRCs in respect of around two acres of land at Hosakerehalli village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. The petitioners claimed that the BBMP was required to issue TDR on 1.5 times the extent of land as indicated in the relinquishment deeds executed on April 3, 2012. The petitioners submitted that the Additional Commissioner, BBMP, on behalf of the Commissioner, was a signatory to the deeds.

The BBMP submitted that the original records pertaining to the relinquishment deeds were not available, but produced a Google map to show that the BBMP had not acquired the land for the formation of a road. It was further submitted that the officers responsible for the error were suspended.

"Till date, the relinquishment deeds stand intact. Not a piece of paper is produced before the Court seeking to demonstrate that erroneous relinquishment deeds were taken. Therefore, after 14 years now, the BBMP cannot project that relinquishment deeds were fraudulently executed by the Additional Commissioner of the BBMP," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court further said, "The BBMP was if at all correct in contending that relinquishment deeds have been fraudulently executed, the Government ought to have taken action against the Commissioner at the relevant point in time, when Additional Commissioner and all other officers were involved. When nothing is done, a humble citizen is put to jeopardy by these acts."

GREEN INVENTORY

Digital database captures India's vast tree diversity

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed a nationwide digital database documenting India's tree diversity, bringing together information from various platforms and records.

The online portal, called India Trees and Vegetation Types, was conceptualised by Professor K Sankara Rao. It catalogues more than 4,000 tree species and nearly 150 palm species found across the country's varied ecosystems. It covers vegetation types ranging from mangroves and dry thorn forests to Himalayan subalpine forests and Western Ghats sholas.

The initiative comes at a time when biodiversity data is increasingly being used for ecological research, conservation planning and environmental assessments, Rao told *DH*. "All the information you need about trees in India is available here. This can act as a blueprint to ensure the right trees end up at the right place. Currently, there is a lot of talk about green cover restoration, but not enough thought is being put into it. For tree restoration to be successful, we need to nurture trees that belong to the area. Imagine taking tree species from the coastal belt of India and planting them in Haryana. How would those trees survive?" he added.

Rao believes the database can serve as a reference point for researchers, conservationists and policymakers studying India's plant diversity and changing landscapes.

Compiled over the course of 18 years, along with intensive fieldwork, the database is backed by records from Herbarium JCB at IISc, one of India's largest collections of preserved plant specimens. Established in 1964, the herbarium houses collections gathered over several decades from different parts of the country, including extensive material from the Western Ghats.

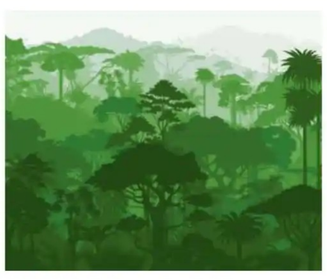
On the digital platform, the profile of each species includes taxonomic information, digitised herbarium specimens, photographs from natural habitats and mapped distribution records.

Browse by species

The portal currently provides access to more than 30,000 records covering both flowering and non-flowering species, along with search tools that allow users to browse by species, habitat and vegetation type. The database also includes a picture gallery.

Previously, the CES also worked on digital databases for flora in the following regions: Karnataka, the Eastern Ghats, Peninsular India and India. Rao is also the author of Trees of Bangalore.

To access the digital database, visit *indiatrees-ces.iisc.ac.in*.



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DH on Sunday

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Ruthless India complete Afghan sweep

Prasidh, Jaiswal star in 9-wicket win

P13

Travel *Page18*

A fine blend

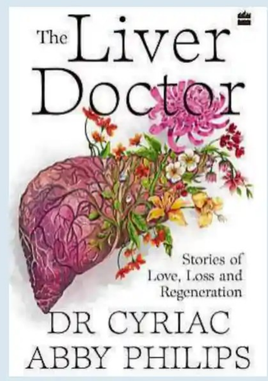
From tea estates to monasteries, forts and beaches, Sri Lanka offers much to explore

Art & Pursuits *Page20*

Botany and the Empire

An ongoing exhibition shows how South Asian flora was studied, drawn and archived during the British era

Books *Page17*



Masterful and moving

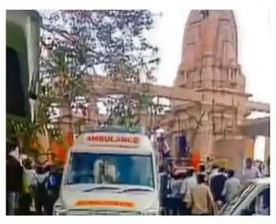
The Liver Doctor chronicles everything from medical myths to human suffering

Food & Drink *Page19*

Sweet tidings

Goa's festive season is marked by desserts with jackfruit, banana and grated coconut fillings

Quickly



5 dead in Maha temple hall collapse

At least five people were killed and several others injured when a portion of an under-construction assembly hall (sabha mandap) at the renowned Hanuman temple in Yashwadi village of Manwat taluk in Maharashtra's Parbhani district collapsed on Saturday.
Details on Page 7

CJP's Dipke announces indefinite stir

Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijit Dipke on Saturday announced an indefinite sit-in at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, escalating the demand for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, but the police denied the permission for a protest. A section of the protesters remained at the site.
Details on Page 7

Govt starts paying Bidadi farmers

While farmer groups and Opposition leaders are preparing for a protest march on Sunday over the proposed Bidadi township, the government has started giving out compensation money to farmers who agreed to give up their land. Local MLA H C Balakrishna handed over the first set of cheques to over seven farmers of Kempaiyanapalya.
Details on Page 5

Hormuz shut over Lebanon strikes: Iran

Iran said it was once again closing the vital Strait of Hormuz on Saturday over Israeli attacks in Lebanon, as Iranian and US negotiators prepared to converge on Switzerland for talks on implementing a deal to end the Middle East war.
Details on Page 3

Rain leaves B'luru IT belt flooded

A sudden, intense spell of heavy evening rain lashed parts of east and northeast Bengaluru on Saturday, exposing the city's vulnerable civic infrastructure once again. The IT corridor bore the brunt of the downpour, with Whitefield turning into what a resident described as a 'FloodField on X.
Facing Page

In strife-hit Manipur, displaced families face death and despair

Across relief camps in the valley and the hills, displaced Meitei and Kuki families grapple with trauma, failing healthcare and fading hopes of returning home

SUMIR KARMAKAR
IMPHAL/ BISHNUPUR/ KANGPOKPI, DHNS

Asem Bimalata, a Meitei woman whose husband died at the Laisoi relief camp in Bishnupur district last year; a Kuki woman engaged in an income-generating activity at a camp in L Songtun, Kangpokpi district. DH PHOTOS/SUMIR KARMAKAR

The conflict between the Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur, which erupted on May 3, 2023, brought a triple tragedy upon septuagenarian Philem Ibohol, a former shopkeeper from the Meitei community in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district. First, his house and shop were torched during the violence. Then, his two sons — Ramesh (44) and Rabi (34) — died in the relief camp in February 2025.

"Ramesh had liver issues, but Rabi did not have any major health problems," Ibohol and his wife, Yaima, told *DH* at the relief camp in Laisoi, Bishnupur district, located about 50 km from Imphal, the state capital.

INSIGHT

"We could not take them to a good doctor because of the conflict," Yaima added.

The couple had four sons; one had died earlier in Churachandpur. Their only surviving son works in Imphal.

The prolonged conflict has left deep scars across communities, with both Kuki and Meitei families in relief camps grappling with deaths, trauma, untreated illnesses, unemployment and growing hopelessness. The lack of timely medical care, poor living conditions and prolonged uncertainty in the camps have worsened physical and psychological distress of displaced people.

The conflict has claimed more than 260 lives and displaced over 60,000 people. Thousands of Kukis were forced to flee the Meitei-dominated Valley and seek refuge in Kuki-majority areas, while Meiteis similarly moved out of Kuki-dominated regions.

More than three years after the violence erupted, the situation remains largely unchanged. Members of the two communities are still unable to travel freely to each other's areas due to persistent security concerns and deep-rooted mistrust.

As many as 731 people have died in relief camps over the past three years.

More than 300 displaced Meiteis from Bishnupur and the adjoining fringe areas have been taking shelter in the buildings of a water sports complex on the banks of the picturesque Loktak Lake, which was converted into a relief camp by the government.

The camp has witnessed the deaths of at least five residents, while another person died by suicide.

"Depression among us is growing because we do not see any hope of this conflict ending anytime soon," said Loitongbam Surchand Singh, a teacher from Churachandpur, who has been living in the camp with his family.

"There is no work here and we cannot go home. The government has not allowed us to return, citing the fear of attacks by the Kukis. Displaced persons from both communities do not want to languish in relief camps any longer," Kh Khamba, resident of a relief camp in the Akampat area of Imphal, told *DH*.

A similar situation prevails at the Mandap relief camp in Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district. At least three members of the Kuki community, housed in this community hall, about 40 km north of Imphal, have died, with residents attributing the deaths to depression and a lack of timely medical care.

"We cannot go to the Valley out of fear of attacks by the Meiteis. Now, we cannot travel to the Naga areas also because of the fresh conflict between the Nagas and the Kukis. If someone here suffers from a serious illness, we have no option but to wait and watch our patients die, as there are no proper treatment facilities," said Lelen Haokip, who worked as a carpenter in Imphal before the conflict, from the relief camp in Kangpokpi.

"Even now, there is a blockade by the Nagas on both sides of our district. The highway has been blocked from the Senapati side, which is Naga-dominated, as well as from the Meitei-dominated Valley," he added.

Kangpokpi remained closed following a bandh called by the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), a Kuki organisation, to protest the killing of two Kukis allegedly by Nagas on June 11.

▸ Manipur crisis, Page 2

India's cyber vulnerabilities begin long before a breach

The CBSE-OSM controversy exposes deeper faults in cybersecurity audits, procurement and institutional accountability

KARAN SAINI

Activists protest in New Delhi against irregularities in CBSE's on-screen marking system. PTI

In February 2026, Nisarga Adhikary, a 19-year-old security researcher and Grade 12 student, discovered vulnerabilities in the online platform used for Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) pilot on on-screen marking (OSM) system. CBSE used a platform developed by Coempt Eduteck Private Limited, a private company that also provides technology solutions to state education boards and universities.

Keeping aside the purported merits and efficiency of OSM, as well as the controversies surrounding the procurement process, it is worth examining the failures that led to CBSE's embarrassing OSM pilot and discussing how security should be addressed in mission-critical systems going forward.

Nisarga reported the vulnerabilities he found to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) on February 25 and received an acknowledgement from the agency the following day. Security researchers often report vulnerabilities to CERT-In because of its status as the national nodal agency for receiving and responding to vulnerability, and incident reports. However, many are unaware that CERT-In has no real enforcement powers.

Following Nisarga's responsible disclosure, Coempt Eduteck Private Limited fixed the most serious of the several vulnerabilities he had reported. The vulnerability in question involved a client-side hardcoded credential that could be used to bypass the normal authentication process altogether, effectively functioning as an easily discoverable backdoor for anyone who examined the application. Nisarga sought updates from CERT-In on the status of his report for several weeks but did not receive a satisfactory response.

The SUNDAY STORY

That remained the case until May 22, when Nisarga publicly disclosed all the vulnerabilities he had discovered, on his blog, including those that had not been fixed. It is worth noting that public disclosure of vulnerabilities is a recognised practice in the cybersecurity industry, particularly when vendors are unresponsive — a process commonly known as "full disclosure." Google's own vulnerability disclosure policy provides a 90-day disclosure timeline from the date of initial notification, which is reduced to seven days when there is evidence of active exploitation.

In response, rebuttals and assurances came from all quarters: "the system is secure and transparent," "the vulnerable platform is a test environment and contains no real data," and "no data or grades can be modified." These rebuttals were not accompanied by documentary evidence and followed the familiar pattern of responses often seen from government agencies after security vulnerabilities or breaches are reported. Following the initial rebuttals, security researchers discovered more serious vulnerabilities on the platform.

On May 31, CBSE admitted that vulnerabilities existed in its platform and stated that it was working with a team of experts from the Indian Institutes of Technology to address both reported and unreported issues. On June 5, the team of experts said they believed artificial intelligence had been used by bad actors and researchers to identify vulnerabilities on the platform.

It is immediately clear that procurement norms for entities such as CBSE require swift and decisive reform.

▸ Cybersecurity, Page 2

DH SPECIAL

Guest faculty keep public varsities breathing

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The 31 public universities in the state are operating with barely a third of their sanctioned teaching posts filled by permanent faculty, relying heavily on guest lecturers to keep classrooms functioning. Eleven universities currently do not have a single permanent teacher on their rolls.

Data from the Higher Education Department shows that 2,966 of the 4,475 sanctioned faculty posts were vacant and to address this, the state government approved the engagement of 3,299 guest lecturers for the 2025–26 academic year.

In at least 13 universities, the number of guest lecturers exceeded the total sanctioned faculty strength. While a permanent faculty member is required to teach 16 hours a week, those teaching hours are often distributed among multiple guest lecturers.

The dependence on guest lecturers is most pronounced in newer universities in Koppal, Chamarajanagar, Bidar, Haveri, Hassan, Kodagu, Bengaluru (Nrupathunga University) and Mandya. However, even some older institutions, including the universities in Mysuru, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Bengaluru and Shivamogga, rely extensively on temporary faculty.

Academicians, however, warn that prolonged failure to recruit permanent faculty is taking a toll on educational quality, university rankings and research activities.

Kuvempu University Vice-Chancellor Sharath Ananthamurthy noted that guest lecturers cannot guide research scholars, limiting universities' academic growth and reducing their ability to attract private investment in research and innovation. "Many qualified guest faculty members with five to 12 years of experience are unable to guide research students. Vacant posts also negatively affect university evaluations," he said, adding that job insecurity often prevents guest lecturers from developing a long-term commitment to their institutions.

The growing dependence on guest faculty is also straining university finances.

"Since guest lecturers are paid from universities' own limited resources, funds that could otherwise be used for infrastructure and student facilities are being diverted towards salaries," A M Khan, Vice-Chancellor, Karnatak University, Dharwad, said.

Harish Ramaswamy, former vice-chancellor of Adikavi Sri Maharshi Valmiki University, Raichur, described the situation as the result of a policy drift spanning nearly two decades. "To reduce committed expenditure, universities increasingly opted for contract faculty instead of permanent recruitment," he said. Salaries and pensions account for 12–13% of university budgets, and successive governments have been reluctant to create long-term financial liabilities through regular appointments.

Former Higher Education Minister M C Sudhakar said the Siddaramaiah government had initiated efforts to rationalise faculty requirements and approve the recruitment of more than 1,000 teachers in public universities.

"A committee headed by me had recommended winding up certain universities. We need a complete overhaul of higher education in the state, and I hope the government acts on those recommendations," he said.

HARISH RAMASWAMY
former VC, Raichur University

"Shrinking grants from the University Grants Commission, declining revenue from college affiliations and the expansion of departments without adequate financial planning are contributing to the crisis.

May 3, 2023: Violence breaks out in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district following a student union-led shutdown against the HC's recommendation to recognise Meiteis as STs

May 4, 2023: Violence spreads to Meitei-dominated areas and beyond, causing deaths, injuries and arson. An alleged Meitei mob loots over 6,000 weapons from armouries

May 12, 2023: 10 Kuki MLAs, including seven from BJP, seek then CM N Biren Singh's resignation and a separate administration for Kuki-dominated districts

July 2023: Biren Singh offers to resign but withdraws after protest by his supporters

July 19, 2023: A video of two Kuki women being paraded naked sparks outrage and renewed calls for the CM's resignation. Prime Minister Modi condemns the incident

July 28, 2023: The Centre orders a CBI probe into the incident and asks the SC to shift trial of conflict-related cases out of Manipur

How the conflict unfolded

June 4, 2024: BJP loses both the Lok Sabha seats to Congress

Sept 2024: Kuki organisation moves SC-monitored probe panel and submits an audio tape alleging Biren's role in the conflict

Nov 2024: BJP allies NPP, with six MLAs, and Mizo National Front seek Biren's removal

Dec 31, 2024: Biren Singh apologises for the conflict and urges Meiteis and Kukis to "forget, forgive and move forward"

Feb 10, 2025: Biren Singh resigns as CM

Feb 13, 2025: President's Rule promulgated

March 1, 2025: Home Minister Amit Shah asks forces to ensure free movement on the highways by March 8

March 8, 2025: One killed, several injured as Kukis defy Shah's order for movement on the highways

April 5, 2025: Meitei and Kuki groups meet for the first time in Delhi, but no breakthrough achieved

Feb 4, 2026: President's Rule revoked. BJP MLA Yumnam Khemchand Singh, a Meitei, sworn in as CM, with Naga leader Losii Dikho and Kuki leader Nemcha Kipgen as his deputies

Feb 2026: Conflict spreads to Naga-dominated areas; gunfight between Nagas and Kukis in Ukhrul leaves three dead

April 7, 2026: Peace efforts suffer a setback after an attack on a Meitei family in Tronglaobi village in Bishnupur. Two children killed, mother injured in attack

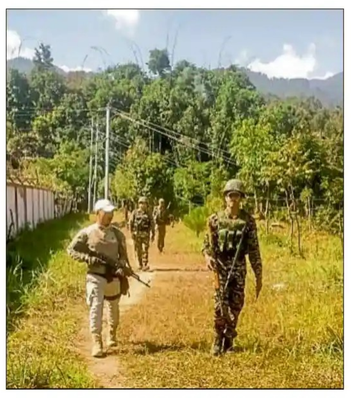
Fight for political identity

Manipur's human crisis

- The ethnic conflict between the **Meiteis** and the **Kukis** erupted in **2023** over disputes related to tribal status and land rights
- Since the conflict began, **homes, businesses, villages** and places of **worship** have been burnt, looted and vandalised
- Over **60,000** displaced people from both communities are living in relief camps with limited access to healthcare, sanitation and nutrition
- The conflict has triggered rising cases of post-traumatic **stress disorder**

Factors behind the conflict

- The conflict was triggered by a 2023 Manipur High Court recommendation to consider granting Scheduled Tribe status for Meiteis, raising concerns among Kukis over land and political power



- Deep-rooted mistrust between the valley and hill communities, and demographic anxieties
- Economic development and political power has been mostly valley-centric, leaving the hill communities lagging behind
- Historic insurgency movements established parallel governance mechanisms, exacerbating political and developmental challenges
- Meiteis accuse Kukis of facilitating illegal migration and poppy cultivation, while Kukis see anti-drug drives, evictions and migrant surveys as targeted actions against them

Key demands

KUKIS

- A separate administration in the form of a Union Territory with a legislature
- Action against Meitei insurgent groups
- Justice for the victims and their families

MEITEIS

- No division of Manipur
- Implementation of a National Register of Citizens to identify illegal migrants from Myanmar
- Abrogation of the Suspension of Operations agreement with Kuki insurgent groups
- Action against Kuki groups allegedly involved in arms smuggling, drug trafficking and poppy cultivation

NAGAS

- Creation of a Greater Nagalim encompassing at least four districts of Manipur

Centre's aid

Relief camps set up*: **174**

Prefabricated houses set up: **3,000**

Central funds approved for displaced persons: **Rs 424 crore**

Funds release by the Centre: **Rs 217 crore**

Weapons seize: **7,900**

Arrests on extortion charge: **1,000**

(*As on March 2026)

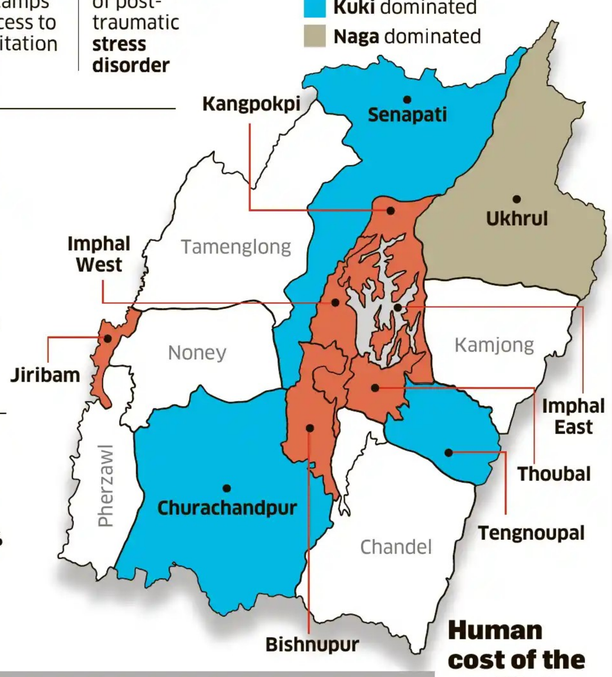
The faultline

The Imphal Valley

- Predominantly inhabited by Meiteis
- Covers about **10%** of state's area
- Home to **57%** of the state's population

The hill districts

- Predominantly inhabited by Kukis and Nagas
- Accounts for **90%** of the state's area
- Home to **43%** of the state's population



Affected districts

- **Meitei** dominated
- **Kuki** dominated
- **Naga** dominated

Relief camps record 731 deaths in 3 years

Dists	People taking shelter in relief camps	Deaths
Churachandpur	6,365	248
Bishnupur	10,092	151
Kangpokpi	15,694	128
Imphal West	4,391	94
Kakching	3,243	60
Imphal East	2,619	25
Jiribam	436	13
Thoubal	754	11
Tengnoupal	82	01
Total	**43,676**	**731**

- Unnatural deaths accounted for **3.4%** of all deaths reported in relief camps

Human cost of the conflict

Death toll in Meitei-Kuki conflict: **217**

Death toll in Naga-Kuki conflict since Feb 2026: **22**

Missing: **29**

Injured: **~1,500**

Internal displacements: **~60,000**

Number of people in relief camps and pre-fabricated houses: **58,881**

Houses lost and damaged

Houses burnt: **>4,700**

Houses completely destroyed: **7,894**

Houses partially destroyed: **2,646**

Sources: RTI application, Manipur Police, Amnesty International, ORF, SAV, Wikipedia, media reports

Compiled by **Divyashri Mudakavi** & **Sumir Karmakar** DH Graphic: **Guru Prasath R**

Manipur crisis, from P1

Meanwhile, the inter-district economic blockade imposed by the United Naga Council, the apex Naga body in Manipur, disrupted the movement of trucks carrying essential goods, leading to severe shortages across the state.

As a result, petrol prices touched Rs 350 per litre in Kangpokpi on June 12, while LPG cylinders were being sold at Rs 5,000, residents told *DH*.

For residents already displaced by the conflict, these disruptions have only deepened daily hardships. At the relief camp in Laisoi, Asem Bimalata, a displaced Meitei woman, sat quietly on a wooden bench alongside a few other residents. Her husband, Asem Inao, died there in August last year after suffering a massive heart attack.

"He had no prior health issues. The heart attack may have been triggered by the trauma we have gone through," Bimalata told *DH*.

The only silver lining in some of the camps is that a number of women have taken up income-generating activities such as weaving, tailoring, and horticulture as they strive to rebuild their lives.

A grim toll

On June 4, the Manipur Home Department disclosed that at least 731 displaced persons had died in relief camps and government-provided prefabricated shelters over the past three years, including 25 classified as unnatural deaths. The details were released following an RTI application filed by Imphal-based writer and former bureaucrat Hareshwar Goshwami.

According to the data, Churachandpur recorded the highest number of deaths at 248, followed by Bishnupur with 151 deaths, Kangpokpi with 128, Imphal West with 94 and Kakching with 60.

"The home department, however, has not yet responded to my query on the reasons leading to the deaths. I have moved the commission in this regard," Goshwami, told *DH*. The home department said 287 displaced persons in relief camps were suffering from terminal illnesses.

"From what I have learnt during my visits to the relief camps, many victims died from hypertension, stroke and trauma triggered by the shock following displacements. The lack of medical facilities, coupled with the inability to transport patients to hospitals because of the conflict, led to many deaths," Goshwami said.

Impact on education

"Can you expect us to concentrate on our studies in such an atmosphere?" asked Thangjangam Khongsai, a second-semester BA student, gesturing towards the tarpaulin-sheet partitions inside a relief camp at the Zalen community hall in Kangpokpi district.

As many as 161 displaced persons, including 60 children, have been living in the camp since 2023.

"I could not attend a Staff Selection Commission interview because of the conflict. We cannot travel to Imphal, and there is no examination centre here," he told *DH*.

Education has been severely disrupted across Manipur due to the conflict, with the impact extending far beyond the relief camps. Families who can afford it have sent their children to cities such as Delhi, Bengaluru, Guwahati and Silchar to continue their studies.

Naga-Kuki conflict

Even as the government continues its efforts to resolve the Meitei-Kuki conflict, fresh tensions between the Nagas and the Kukis have emerged as a new challenge for security forces and displaced families living in relief camps.

The conflict intensified in February when at least two Kukis and a Naga were killed in separate attacks in Ukhrul district. While Ukhrul is predominantly Naga-inhabited, it is also home to several Kuki settlements. Since then, sporadic attacks and retaliatory violence have claimed the lives of more than 20 people from both communities.

The unrest subsequently spread to Naga- and Kuki-inhabited villages in districts such as Senapati, a Naga-majority district, and Kangpokpi, which is predominantly Kuki.

Tensions escalated further on June 10 with the recovery of the bodies of six Nagas who had been abducted on May 13. At least 20 villagers — 14 Kukis and six Nagas — were abducted following the killing of three church leaders belonging to the Thadou tribe, a constituent group of the Kuki-Zo community.

The genesis of the Naga-Kuki conflict lies in competing territorial claims. The Kukis contend that their ancestral homeland overlaps with the Naga aspiration for "Nagalim" or "Greater Nagaland," comprising Naga-inhabited areas in Manipur, Nagaland, a few districts in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

The Naga demand for Greater Nagalim has also generated tensions with the Meitei community, as successive Manipur governments have consistently maintained that the state's territorial integrity must remain intact.

These overlapping claims over land have been a major source of conflict between the Nagas and the Kukis for decades. The dispute culminated in large-scale violence during the early 1990s, resulting in the deaths of more than 1,000 Kukis and over 400 Nagas between 1990 and 1992.

"Manipur cannot afford another confrontation at this juncture. The government and the communities must work towards a solution based on mutual accommodation and compromise," Gaidon Kamei, a senior Naga leader told *DH*.

The Centre's attempt to engage all three major communities by installing a "popular government" appears to have fallen short of expectations. The government, formed in February after nearly a year of President's Rule, is headed by a Meitei Chief Minister, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, with Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki, and Losii Dikho, a Naga, serving as deputy chief ministers.

However, the administration has struggled to bring the Meitei and Kuki communities on board to reach an agreement. At the same time, it has found it difficult to contain the growing tensions between the Naga and Kuki communities.

"Despite frequent agitations by civil society organisations over our demands, there has been no formal communication or dialogue with either the Centre or the new state government since the imposition of President's Rule," Shanta Nahakpam, spokesperson of the Coordination Committee on Manipur Unity (COCOMI), an apex body representing several valley-based civil society organisations, told *DH*.

Competing visions

Meitei groups have been pressing for an Assam-like update of the National Register of Citizens exercise to identify and address the issue of undocumented migrants, particularly those they describe as illegal Chin-Kuki migrants from Myanmar. However, these allegations and demands remain strongly contested by Kuki organisations.

Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho also sought to increase pressure on the Centre to review the Suspension of Operations arrangement after alleging that a Kuki armed group, which is a signatory to the agreement, was involved in the killing of six Nagas.

Naga organisations have further demanded the removal of Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki leader, alleging that the Kuki National Front (P), an armed group reportedly led by her husband, was linked to the killings. However, Kipgen rejected the allegations when contacted by *DH*.

The Kuki groups, on the other hand, remain steadfast in their demand for a "separate administration" in the form of a Union Territory with a Legislature saying that Kukis can no longer live under the same administration given the frequent "atrocities and humiliation."

"The conflict in Manipur reinforces the argument that the crisis is not merely a result of inter-community misunderstanding but is fundamentally about the assertion of distinct political identities," Thangminlen Kipgen, a Kuki leader, told *DH*.

The Meiteis seek political security within Manipur, the Kukis are looking for a political arrangement that guarantees their safety and future, while the Nagas have long pursued a form of political autonomy. The current situation reflects the growing belief that these communities are finding it increasingly difficult to coexist harmoniously under a single political framework, Thangminlen Kipgen added.

Since assuming office as Chief Minister in February, Yumnam Khemchand Singh has repeatedly appealed to the state's communities to "forget and forgive" the past in order to move forward and work towards a lasting solution. However, sporadic incidents of violence and killings have continued.

Meanwhile, the Centre has deployed two battalions of the elite CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) force of the CRPF in Manipur, with each battalion comprising around 1,000 personnel, with a target to "normalise the situation" in one year. The CoBRA battalions were raised to fight against the Maoists.

Gaidon Kamei, the Naga leader, however, questioned the Centre's reliance on force as a means to resolve the conflict, saying similar efforts failed in the past.

"The Centre enacted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in 1958 to combat insurgency in the Northeast. Many have died in attacks and counter attacks since then. Has that ended militancy? Dialogue based on a spirit of mutual accommodation and compromise is the only way forward, both for the government as well as the communities," he said.

Have your say

To express your opinion, e-mail us at: insight@deccanherald.co.in

Cybersecurity, from P1

Making cybersecurity audit accountability a legal requirement

CBSE students study for the Class 12 examinations in Meerut.

The AI-driven vulnerability apocalypse, which the government claims to be taking very seriously following the announcement of Anthropic's Claude Mythos, should not take centre stage.

Interestingly, access to Anthropic's Claude Mythos 5 and Fable 5 models has since been suspended globally following a US export-control directive, making the government's proposed response unavailable for now.

The current procurement system incentivises CERT-In-empanelled private firms to conduct security audits quickly and cheaply, reducing security to a largely bureaucratic and contractual exercise.

Where critical infrastructure is concerned — and education surely qualifies — the liability of auditing firms should begin at the moment they certify a system and extend to future breaches arising from negligent audits. Penalties should also include substantial financial consequences, rather than being limited to the revocation of a firm's CERT-In empanelment. Such accountability should be codified in law rather than left entirely to contractual arrangements.

Product regulation

The government could also consider regulating security at the product level, similar to the European Union's Cyber Resilience Act, while building on measures already in place for surveillance products. Since April 1, CCTV cameras cannot be sold in India without STQC certification and compliance with the government's notified Essential Requirements covering device security.

This framework could be extended to software products by making companies such as Coempt Eduteck legally liable for the security of the software they develop, with stringent penalties even when the software is deployed by a third party. It is worth noting that an official discussion paper by CERT-In on cybersecurity and procurement by government organisations already exists, though no penal provisions are discussed.

Reform or retire

Many, including myself, have previously highlighted CERT-In's limitations and suggested reforms. These inputs have largely focused on improving communication processes and increasing transparency, but they have been entirely ignored. A 2023 amendment to the RTI Act also resulted in CERT-In being exempt from requests for information under the law.

Many questions remain about how Nisarga's and others' disclosures were handled by CERT-In, Coempt and CBSE. Unfortunately, those questions are unlikely to be answered and will instead be addressed, if at all, through official statements and carefully worded press releases that omit critical details.

Without immediate reform, CERT-In risks becoming increasingly irrelevant, especially as other agencies are already capable of performing many of its functions. The National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) is one such agency. Interviewees in a 2019 policy brief that I co-authored cited the "positive and timely resolution" of security issues reported to the NCIIPC, noting that it could serve as a model for other government bodies.

Initiatives such as the Cyber Swachhta Kendra, which can be bluntly described as a perpetual cybersecurity awareness campaign run by CERT-In, could be more effectively handled by an agency such as the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), or potentially done away with altogether.

Until the fundamentals — competent audits, accountable agencies and enforceable obligations for vendors — are addressed, focusing on the AI-driven vulnerability apocalypse will do little to improve the security of critical systems.

(Karan is an independent security researcher from New Delhi)

Iran shuts Hormuz Strait again over Lebanon fighting

Amid strains, US-Iran talks to begin in Switzerland today

TEHRAN/BEIRUT/ WASHINGTON, AGENCIES

Civilians and first responders gather at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Qennarit on Saturday. AFP

Iran said it was once again closing the vital Strait of Hormuz on Saturday over Israeli attacks in Lebanon, as Iranian and US negotiators prepared to converge on Switzerland on Sunday for talks on implementing a deal to end the West Asia war.

Follow-up negotiations had been planned in Switzerland on Friday, but were postponed at the last minute as Israel carried out a wave of deadly strikes in Lebanon after four of its soldiers were killed in combat.

The US announced a renewed ceasefire there on Friday — a stipulation under the deal it signed with Iran — but Israeli troops clashed with Hezbollah fighters and conducted strikes again on Saturday, with both sides accusing the other of violating the new truce.

Citing a US "breach of contract" and "the Zionist regime's continuous and relentless violation of the ceasefire in southern Lebanon", Iran's central military command announced Saturday "that the Strait of Hormuz will be closed to vessel traffic".

The Revolutionary Guards' naval force warned vessels not to approach the waterway, "otherwise, their security will be jeopardised".

Shortly after that, the state broadcaster announced that Iran's negotiating team was heading to Switzerland.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Bagahei, however, signalled that little might happen until Iran feels the US is living up to the deal.

"This trip is therefore about demanding that the other side fulfil its obligations," he said, adding that negotiations toward a final agreement will begin only once key commitments are upheld. If they are not, he said, "then the memorandum of understanding as a whole will be jeopardised".

Key mediator Pakistan, meanwhile, said the technical-level talks will begin on Sunday in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, with Qatari mediators also participating.

"As a follow-up to the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, technical-level talks will be held in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, on 21 June 2026," Pakistan's Foreign Office said.

In Washington, Vice President J D Vance confirmed the top US negotiators — Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff — were already in Switzerland and have been working through technical details of the anticipated negotiations.

Earlier Saturday, Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon killed at least 16 people, including two children, hours after reports emerged of a ceasefire.

▸ Iran, Page 6

3 Indian-flagged tankers transit

Three Indian-flagged crude oil tankers carrying over 8.6 lakh million tonnes of cargo with 94 crew members from the country transited through the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday and are en route to India, the Union government said. The vessels are expected to arrive between June 24 and July 1. Page 7

> The other side must take the necessary measures as soon as possible. Otherwise, the entire understanding will be in trouble.
> **Esmail Bagahei,** Iran Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

> We'll plan the talks when the principals from the Iranian government, also the Qatari and the Pakistani governments arrive. That may happen as soon as tomorrow, but these things are always a little bit in flux.
> **J D VANCE,** US Vice President

CM unveils Praja Seve dept for grievance redressal

Karnataka students preparing for competitive exams to get new facility in Delhi

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday announced the creation of a dedicated 'Praja Seve' department to address public grievances, a revamp of Karnataka Resident Commissioner's office in New Delhi and approval for Karnataka Bhavan-IV, a new facility for students from the state preparing for competitive examinations in the national capital.

Briefing reporters after a Cabinet meeting, Shivakumar said the new department would receive and resolve citizens' complaints and grievances.

A separate minister will head the department, while a senior IAS officer will be appointed to scrutinise petitions and coordinate redressal.

"District in-charge ministers will hold weekly public grievance meetings with local MLAs, with follow-up reviews to monitor resolution of issues," the chief minister said.

Announcing a restructuring of Karnataka's legal and administrative presence in Delhi, Shivakumar said: "A dedicated team of serving and retired IAS, IRS and IPS officers will be constituted to help secure more Central schemes for Karnataka by identifying opportunities, monitoring applications and studying successful models adopted by other states."

Recently, the CM appointed Jobin Joseph, his long-time aide, as his official personal representative in the national capital. In his pro bono position, Joseph will coordinate with the CMO and political stakeholders in Delhi and Central agencies.

The Cabinet has also approved a new building — Karnataka Bhavan-IV — in Delhi at a cost of Rs 80 crore, to accommodate students preparing for UPSC and other competitive examinations.

▸ Cabinet, Page 6

Other key Cabinet decisions

- A **200-bed super-speciality hospital** at Yadgir Institute of Medical Sciences (Rs 100 crore)
- Medical equipment **worth Rs 60 crore** for Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute
- **Rs 19.69-crore** housing project in Gadag-Betageri under a 50:50 farmer-authority partnership model
- Six civil works **worth Rs 18 cr** at Karwar Institute of Medical Sciences
- Deadline extended for voluntary land pooling of **1,777 acres** in Devanahalli till Oct 31

GBA eyeing pvt properties to create parking spaces

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru city corporations are exploring new ways to tackle the problem of haphazard parking on the city's roads. The idea is to create enough parking space to meet the increasing demand by incentivising private property owners.

The GBA has made some draft changes to the parking policy and is now awaiting an approval from the government to implement them. One of the main focus areas of the draft prepared by the GBA is to acquire or use private properties near heavily congested stretches and busy commercial areas to provide parking facilities.

"There is a difference between supply and demand and our first priority now is to increase the supply by incentivising private property owners to provide parking space," Maheshwar Rao, GBA chief commissioner, told *DH*.

The city corporations have begun identifying such plots and are exploring ways to use them to provide parking facilities. Wherever possible, the corporations will acquire properties through Transferable Development Rights (TDR).

In other cases, the properties will be leased out and the revenue generated through parking would be used to fill in for the lease.

For instance, under the Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC), officials have identified a plot near Malleswaram 18th Cross which is under litigation and has been is disuse. "We plan to provide a submission to the court stating that the property will be used for public purpose till the case is resolved. Once the case is resolved, we will provide a compensation or TDR to whoever wins the case," said Dr Rajendra K V, commissioner, BWCC.

▸ Parking, Page 6

B'luru braces for traffic controls as NEET, mega events coincide

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid concerns over possible traffic snarls on Sunday due to the NEET-UG re-examination coinciding with a host of events, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have announced restrictions and security measures to ensure smooth commute and a hassle-free conduct of the medical entrance test.

With a mega KPCC event at Palace Grounds, International Yoga Day celebrations and marathons coinciding with the nationwide NEET re-exam, the BTP have announced targeted diversions and movement controls around event venues and examination centres, prioritising candidates' movement.

Commuters and students have been urged to plan travel well in advance and follow traffic advisories to avoid delays.

The police have declared a 200-metre prohibited zone around all NEET centres. The restriction will come into force during exam hours: 2 pm to 5.15 pm on June 21 and mandates the closure of all photocopy shops, cyber cafes and computer typing centres within the radius for the duration.

The day will witness a mega convention at Palace Grounds when KPCC president-designate B K Hariprasad will formally assume charge.

More than one lakh Congress workers are expected to attend the convention, arriving in around 1,200 buses from across the state, raising fears of possible traffic disruptions.

▸ NEET, Page 6

Tight security ahead of exam

On the eve of the NEET-UG re-exam, the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday said it has put in place an unprecedented security and monitoring apparatus across the country to ensure a fair and smooth conduct of the medical entrance examination. Details on Page 7

Cong leader's murder: Ex-Maha minister acquitted

MUMBAI, DHNS: In a verdict that could have ramifications in Maharashtra's shifting political landscape, a Special CBI Court here on Saturday acquitted former state home minister Dr Padamsinh Patil and seven others accused in the 20-year-old murder of Congress leader Pavanraje Nimbalkar and his driver Samad Kazi.

Patil (86) is the stepbrother of Maharashtra Deputy CM and NCP president Sunetra Pawar. He and Nimbalkar were cousins.

Details on Page 7

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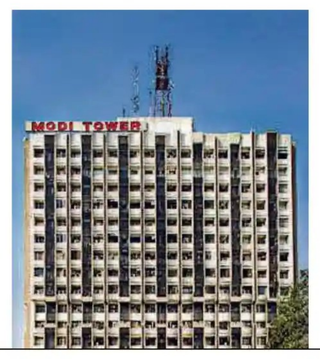
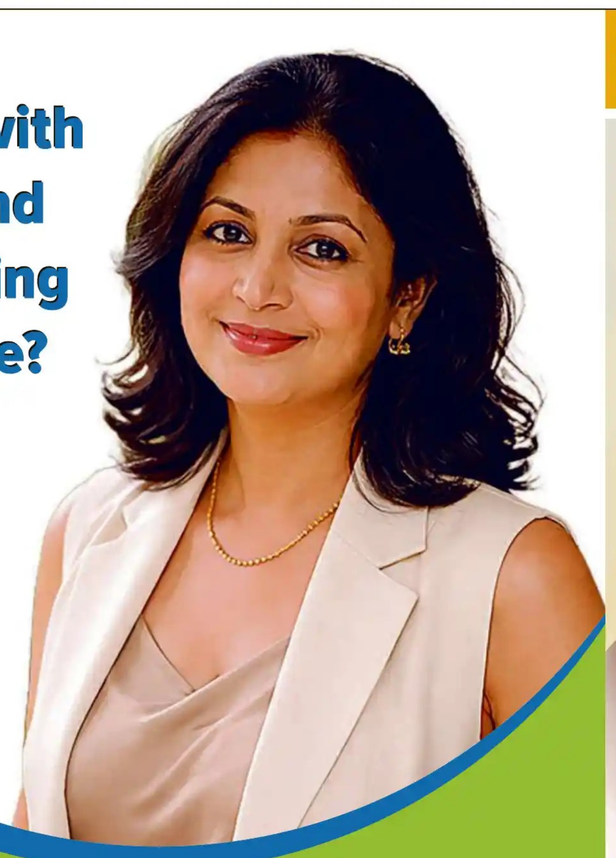


Struggling with Dryness and Itching During Menopause?



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RIGHT OF WAY City's latest push combines vacant plots, towing and stricter planning rules

Can new spaces change Bengaluru's old parking habits?

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Haphazard parking on the roadside has been a problem the city has been battling for years now. The city corporations have taken up a slew of initiatives to address this concern, and the new one among them is to use private vacant properties near heavily congested areas and commercial hubs to provide parking facilities.

However, there are concerns over whether this will help address the issue effectively. The corporations have already set up many Multi-Level Car Parking (MLCP) facilities, which are operating at a lower capacity, and setting up new parking spaces will not work until there is strict enforcement on the ground.

"There is a need for strong enforcement of the ban on street parking. Fines should be levied immediately. Signages should be put up. People should be educated. Unless that happens, the problem cannot be solved," said Professor M N Sreehari, traffic expert.

A senior traffic personnel, on condition of anonymity, also echoed the opinion, saying that creating awareness among people was a bigger task. "The problem is that people tend to think that they will be out only for a while and choose to park on the roadside even when parking facilities are available within a kilometre range. This has to be stopped. Our Garuda teams go on rounds to identify such incidents and immediately reach out to the vehicle owners to clear up traffic. However, they have a large area to cover, and by the time they finish one round, traffic would have piled up at another spot," the official said.

The root cause that has to be addressed to manage this issue is to encourage basement parking, especially in commercial hubs. This will ease the situation significantly, traffic cops opined.

Planned parking space mandatory

Experts also opined that the government should bring in a law to ensure that new establishments and residential properties are allowed only if they have planned parking spaces.

"The corporations should check if the plan includes parking facilities before approving it. If someone has a car and has not made a provision to park it in the house plan, it clearly means that they will park it on the roadside. This should be discouraged," Sreehari said.

Similarly, the assessment of parking space required for bigger shopping complexes or even smaller shops should be done at the preliminary stage to prevent customers from parking on the roadside and causing public inconvenience.

That apart, if the corporations go ahead with the plan to provide parking on vacant plots, it should be planned well to prevent security problems in residential areas close to commercial hubs, residents opined. For instance, residents near New BEL Road, Indiranagar, Koramangala and many other highly commercialised areas are already facing problems, and this new parking initiative could deepen them.

"Imagine a house owner close to the main road wants to earn some money by providing the additional space he has for parking. Since it is close to the main road, many vehicle owners might prefer to park there. But for residents of the area who are already seeing heavy traffic, the parking spot will only cause more disturbance and convert the residential area into a busy space," said Mohan K, a resident of Koramangala.

Apart from looking at vacant plots, the city corporations are also preparing to start pay-and-park systems on many city roads. The corporations have also asked the traffic police to restart towing operations soon.

Will towing help?

Towing, along with the pay-and-park system, might help ease the situation relatively, officials said. "Once the systems are put in place, the situation might come under control. Based on how the situation pans out, we will plan further measures," another GBA official said.

Haphazard parking leads to a host of problems, including traffic pile-ups on narrow city roads. This leads to increased congestion on already busy roads, traffic cops said. The use of private properties for providing parking is still in the initial stages, and measures will be taken to ensure that safety concerns are addressed, GBA officials said.

A row of parked cars shows how Bengaluru's roads are steadily losing space to vehicles. DH FILE PHOTO

FIXING PARKING GAPS

- Multi-level car parking facilities in key areas
- Pay-and-park facilities on wide, busy roads
- Ban on parking on narrow roads

Towing of vehicles parked haphazardly in no-parking zones

- Decentralised parking facilities planned on vacant plots near busy road stretches

Towing to begin in Jayanagar next week

BENGALURU, DHNS: Towing operations will begin in Jayanagar next week.

Officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) on Saturday inspected the towing vehicles deployed for operations beginning next week.

"Three towing vehicles will be operational in the Jayanagar Zone starting next week. This initiative aims to curb unauthorised vehicle parking, which is causing significant inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians alike," said K N Ramesh, Commissioner, BSCC. These vehicles have received fitness certificates from the Transport Department and will be officially handed over to the traffic police.

Surya Arts to present 'Aladdin'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Surya Arts International will present Aladdin & The Magic Lamp (Maaya Deep), a dance drama, as part of its 20th cultural programme at Ravindra Kalakshetra. The performance will begin at 6 pm on Sunday.

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PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/291225/008366 HOSUR ROAD 10 MINS. ELECTRONIC CITY ₹62.71 L - 1.01 Cr* 8880 003 003 G+22
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/190301/002464 WHITEFIELD 5 MINS. KADUGODI METRO ₹78.40 - 86.88 Lakhs* 8880 461 461 G+4
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/230126/008427 SARJAPURA SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD ₹60.01 - 83.25 Lakhs* 8880 003 003 G+4
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/050526/008622 MAGADI ROAD 10 MINS. NICE ROAD TOLL ₹92.49 L - 1.23 Cr* 8880 465 465 G+14
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972 HOSA ROAD NEAR ELECTRONIC CITY ₹80.01 L - 1.44 Cr* 8880 013 310 G+4
PRM/KA/RERA/1250/301/PR/251024/007178 YELAHANKA 5 MINS. RAJANUKUNTE ₹56.25 - 97.21 Lakhs* 8880 465 465 G+14
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◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Felicitation of Everest mountaineers Santosh Devarajappa and Chinmayi Trishulamurthy: PGR Sindhia, N Manjunatha Prasad, and Keerthi Payas to be present; Karnataka Mountaineering Association; Bharat Scouts and Guides, 39, Shanti Gruha, Palace Road; 9.30 am.

Inauguration of student hostel: S Keshavaprasad, R Lakshminarayana and M Krishnappa to be present; All India Kuruhinashetti (Weaver) Student Hostel Charitable Trust; Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar, BDA Layout 8th Phase, Anjanapura; 10 am.

Scholarship distribution ceremony: Inauguration by G Jagadeesh, Vijay Raghavendra and S H Padma Ravindra; presided over by M Nagaraja; Bangalore Idiga Student Hostel Alumni Association; Idiga Bhavana, Karnataka State Arya Idiga Association, 185, Rajiv Gandhi Circle, Seshadripuram; 10.30 am.

'Nange Kannada Gottu' 7th Convocation: DK Mohan Babu, CR Chandrashekhar, Nitin Mohan, Satish Mallya, Arun, Vikram Rai, Mini Thomas and RK Meena to be present; Makaranda; Cambridge Institute of Technology, KR Puram; 2 pm.

Condolence meeting for former Law Secretary K R Chamayya: Tribute by Dharmapala Gowda Ennemajalu; Payasvini Geleyara Balaga; Gandhi Sahitya Sangha, 8th Cross, 4th Main Road, Malleshwaram; 3.30 pm.

CULTURAL

Light music camp and Kannada Ghazal Yatra: Ratnamala Prakash to be present; Anurags Sangeetha Gurukula; M Chidanandamurthy Auditorium, near Vijayanagar Metro Station; 10 am.

Book launch of 'Balipada', 'Tithatti Thirugi' and 'Aparichita Neralu': Basavaraj Kalgudi, Karki Krishnamurthy and S Rashmi to release the books; authors Sreedhara Balagara, Jayalakshmi Patil, and Gururaja Kodkani to be present; Ankita Pustaka; Suchitra Auditorium, 9th Main Road, B V Karanth Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage; 10.30 am.

Special art exhibition 'Broken Foot Journal and Other Stories' on the occasion of Reba Hore's birth centenary: 'Seagull' Kolkata; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road; 11 am.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.2°C
Minimum	22.2°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (date)	6:48 pm
Sunrise (Next day)	5:55 am
Moonrise	10:59 am
Moonset	11:33 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
PALAKKAD DIVISION

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Southern Railway/Palakkad invites E - TENDERS for the following works.

E - TENDER NOTICE No. PGT/OT/15/2026 dated 19/06/2026

Sl No	Name of work	Approximate Cash value in (₹) lakhs	Bid Security Amount (₹)	Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs	Completion Period In Months
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Zonal contract for execution of bridge works and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of 1 year from 01/07/2026-30/06/2027 - Zone A IV-Bridge works under Divisional Engineer/East Jurisdiction (Podanur-Ferok; Palakkad-Pollachi; Pollachi-Padanur; Shoranur-Shoranur B cabin and Shoranur-Nilambur section).	55.00	1,10,000/-	13/07/2026	Twelve
2	Zonal contract for execution of bridge works and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of 1 year from 01/07/2026-30/06/2027 - Zone E III-Bridge works under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bridges (Feroke-Mangaluru Central & Mangaluru Central-Panambur section).	35.20	70,400/-	13/07/2026	Twelve
3	Zonal contract for execution of bridge works and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of 1 year from 01/07/2026-30/06/2027 - Zone E IV-Bridge Works under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kannur section.	30.80	61,600/-	13/07/2026	Twelve
4	Zonal contract for execution of bridge works and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of 1 year from 01/07/2026-30/06/2027- Zone E V-Bridge works under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mangalore section.	30.80	61,600/-	13/07/2026	Twelve
5	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Palakkad section:- Proposed drainage improvement works on existing subways no. 258A, 10 A, 25, 45 A, 66 A, 83 A, 89 A & 115 A.	219.03	4,38,100/-	21/07/2026	Twelve
6	Proposed collection and training out of 50 mm machine crushed hard stone ballast at Madukkarai depot.	527.48	10,55,000/-	21/07/2026	Eighteen
7	Proposed collection and training out of 50mm machine crushed hard stone ballast at Bundar depot.	499.27	9,98,500/-	21/07/2026	Twelve
8	Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Tirur section: Supply of experienced, conversant and medically fit men for outsourcing Monsoon patrolling duty. (During the monsoon for the year 2026-27 & 2027-28 for a period of 2 years).	25.60	51,200/-	13/07/2026	Twenty Four

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.
2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.
3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit website "**http://www.ireps.gov.in**"

Note : It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website ; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

Sr. Divisional Engineer / Co-ord
Palakkad
(For and on behalf of the President of India)

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: 222-S/1/W-II, dated: 17.06.2026. Following e-tenders are invited online by the Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, 2nd Floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following works: **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender No.: TN-110-26-27. Name of the work:** At New Alipore: Thorough renovation and repairing works after combining two type-IV flats into one flat and other ancillary works in different blocks of New Alipore Railway Officers Colony under Assistant Engineer [Works]/II/ Sealdah. **Tender value**: ₹ 79,32,742.28. **Earnest Money Deposited**: ₹ 1,58,700. **Completion period for the work:** 10 (ten) months. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender No.: TN-111-26-27. Name of the work:** Replacement of old and overaged passenger cum goods lift at Block No. 7-B at New Alipore under Assistant Engineer (Works)/II/ Sealdah. **Tender value**: ₹34,09,580.49. **Earnest Money Deposited**: ₹ 68,200. **Completion period for the work:** 06 (six) months. **Date and time of closing of tender: 14.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs.** (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each). The tender documents and other details are at **www.ireps.gov.in**. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022 cost of e-Tender Form is Nil. Date and time of opening tender is **14.07.2026 at 15.30 hrs.** (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each).

(SDAH-88/2026-27)

Tender Notices are also available at website: **www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in**

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PLANNING AND INVESTIGATION DIVISION ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT (RCD), RANCHI
Nirupan Bhawan, 3rd Floor, Room No. 401, 56-Set, Doranda, Ranchi-834002

Invitation of Proposal (e-procurement Notice)
Letter of Invitation (LOI) No.- 05/2026-27 1st Call
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
e-Tender Ref No–RCD/PID/RANCHI/05/2026-27 Date:- 19.06.2026

1	Name Of Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Construction of Four lane road from Garhwa Majhiaon More to Shrinagar-Paduka bridge (Jharkhand/Bihar border) of Kandi block including replacement/New Proposal of Culverts, Bridges, ROB's, RUB's, Complete Land Acquisition Plan including Ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal, Forest Diversion Proposal and Utility Shifting Proposal in details etc. as required by the Department (If any) under Garhwa District in the State of Jharkhand. (Tentative Length – 40 km).
2	Tentative Length	40 Km
3	Period of Completion of Work	90 Days
4	Cost of Tender documents	Cost of Tender Document Rs 5,000/- (Five Thousand only) EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: -Rs 1,00,000 (Rs. One lakh only).As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only through eprocurement portal (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) by internet banking/NEFT/RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no 120 dated 03.10.2023.
5	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering(https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	23.06.2026 At 5:30 PM
7	Date of Pre Bid Conference	02.07.2026 At 11:00 AM Place - In the Chamber of CE,CDO, RCD,1stFloor, Nirupan Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002
8	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bid	14.07.2026 Upto 12:00 noon
9	Date and Time of Technical Bid opening	15.07.2026 at 12:30 PM
10	Bid validity	120 days
11	Designation and Contact no. of Tender inviting Officer	Executive Engineer, Planning and Investigation Division,RCD,Ranchi Mob No.-9471650883

Note:- Only e-Tender shall be accepted.

Executive Engineer,Planning & Investigation Division, Road Construction Department, Ranchi.
PR 382895 (Road)26-27*D

LOOKING FOR JOB OPPORTUNITY Refer Classifieds on Wednesday

CERTIFICATION OF ISO 3834 AT C&W WORKSHOP, NEW BONGAIGAON

Tender No.: CMT-GENL-26-135-Part-I; Date: 17-06-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of work:** Certification of ISO 3834 at C&W Workshop, New Bongaigaon, NFR for three (03) years. **Advertised Value:** ₹3,00,005.98/- **Earnest Money:** ₹6,000/-; **E-tenders will be closed at** 15:00 hrs. on 09-07-2026. The complete information with tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in.

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Electrification of 25 kV, 50 Hz, AC, Single Phase Overhead Equipment due to modifications to increase the CSR of Road 10 (PF No. 7) with simultaneous reception and dispatching facilities towards Mysuru end at Bengaluru Yard in Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway.	31-07-2026

Place : Bengaluru
PUB/233/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer
Gati Shakti Unit, Bengaluru

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SAFE & SECURE Fully equipped govt-run facilities in cities house migrants

For building workers, dignity has a new home

NRUPATHUNGA S K
DAVANGERE, DHNS

The Karnataka Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board has constructed six transit accommodations, better known as 'Shramik Nivas', for the benefit of migrant construction workers, in the state.

The accommodations will ensure a safe and secure shelter for them, with separate dormitory and residential flat blocks,

The construction of the first housing complex was completed at Badanahalli in Doddaballapur taluk of Bengaluru rural district at a cost of Rs 19 crore in March 2023.

The then government had announced the project in the 2021-22 budget and Rs 215 crore was allocated, for the project planned in 10 districts.

The department could not find land in Bengaluru city. It has written to the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board for the same.

But the occupancy rate in the operational buildings in Doddaballapur, Chamarajanagar, Belagavi and Shivamogga is less than 30% annually against the total capacity of 3,432 workers and their dependents.

The accommodations have been built far away from the city limits. The lack of proper bus service to these shelters from the worksites and poor publicity are major reasons for the low occupancy.

For instance, the facility at Sidlipura in Shivamogga taluk is at a distance of around 14 km from the city. This has discouraged many workers to utilise it.

"I had written to KSRTC officials to operate bus service in the morning and in the evening for the benefit of workers, but to no avail," said Shivamogga district labour officer Venugopal M P.

He said generally, construction workers from other parts of the state and country come here in October and return to their home towns or states in May. The occupancy rate will be less during rainy season.

Decent roofs over their heads eluded migrant labourers for long. But housing complexes built for construction workers, like this one at Sidlipura in Shivamogga, have purified drinking water, solar hot water, electricity, kitchens and other facilities. But poor bus service and scant publicity have resulted in low occupancy.

As of now around 40 persons, including dependents of workers, are residing at the Shivamogga facility. There are three buildings which can accommodate 936 persons.

Each worker/occupant has to pay Rs 30 per day as rent. They can stay there till the completion of their work. The workers of other states can stay in these buildings provided their contractor or employer provides documents that they are migrant construction workers.

Labour card is mandatory. If the workers don't have one, their contractor or employer must issue a letter and copies of the Aadhaar card of his workers.

The buildings in Shivamogga have three dormitory blocks with two-tier bunker beds and locker facilities and they are allotted to individual workers. Three residential blocks with flats comprising a single bed room, kitchen and hall are allotted to workers who come with family. The building has a common kitchen too. Purified drinking water, solar hot water, electricity and other basic facilities are available. A security guard is stationed there round-the-clock.

Vinoda, wife of a construction worker in the transit accommodation at Sidlipura, said, "The facilities are very good and we are preparing food here only. The absence of bus service is the only drawback. So, we are using our two-wheeler for daily travel. If bus service is provided, more workers will stay here".

In Davangere, the Shramik Nivas is being constructed at J H Patel Layout at a cost of Rs 18 crore. The first phase work is over and second phase is in progress. It can accommodate 528 persons.

"We are hopeful that workers will avail the facility as it is in the city limits," Davangere district labour officer Aravind told *DH*.

Kalaburagi district labour officer Sharanabasappa Halimani said land was not available in the city limits.

So, the transit accommodation buildings were constructed at Kapanur and Nandur areas. They can accommodate over 920 persons. But they have not been inaugurated yet.

Initially, the facilities were intended only for migrant construction workers. To make full use of them, the board has now decided to allow all workers in the unorganised sector to use the accommodations. Those working in industries can also stay, but have to pay Rs 75 as rent per day.

Karnataka Building And Other Construction Workers Welfare Board chief executive officer Ravi D Channannavar told *DH* that though the buildings functioning in Bengaluru Rural, Chamarajanagar, Shivamogga and Belagavi had all facilities, occupancy rate was low.

"So, we have decided to allow workers in other sectors, including industries, to use the facilities", he said.

Mohammed, a native of West Bengal residing at the Shivamogga Shramik Nivas, told *DH* that the facilities were too good.

Swarna Bhat of the Grameena Koolikarmikara Sangha, which works for the empowerment of daily wage workers, said providing housing for the large number of workers who come to Karnataka from northern states was a welcome move.

"It would have been better if such facilities are provided in cities where migrant worker numbers are huge," Bhat said, urging the labour department to popularise the scheme.

Cong likely to replace Legislative Council chairman

BENGALURU, DHNS: After gaining numbers in the Legislative Council, the ruling Congress is likely to replace the chairman and deputy chairman in the House for the July session of the legislature.

By winning five seats in the recent elections, the Congress raised its numbers from 37 to 39.

Four seats (nominated) set to be vacant in July will boost its numbers further.

The Congress' numbers will reach 43 in the 75-member House after the nominated members join the House in July. Earlier, efforts were made by some Congress members to move a no-confidence motion against chairman Basavaraj Horatti and his deputy Chairman M K Pranesh. But they were dropped as the party did not have the required numbers.

Ramesh Babu, senior member of the Council, told *DH*, "It is a practice that the chairman and deputy chairman step down voluntarily when they don't have a majority."

Babu, however, said that the Congress will decide on it after the second round of Cabinet expansion.

Horatti was elected on a BJP ticket. Pranesh is also a BJP member.

Several names, including those of former minister Umashree, senior members Saleem Ahmed, N S Boseraju and Ivan D'souza, are doing rounds for the Council chairman's post.

Congress sources said that the party will take a decision after working out the caste combinations.

HM, teacher arrested in POCSO case

KADUR (CHIKKAMAGALURU DIST), DHNS: An assistant teacher and headmaster of a government higher primary school in the taluk were arrested under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and produced before a court in Chikkamagaluru on Saturday.

The assistant teacher was arrested by police for allegedly sexually harassing girl students and sharing obscene video clippings with them. He has been also been charged under provisions of caste-based abuse, misuse of information technology and sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The headmaster has been booked under POCSO Act, caste abuse provisions and sections under BNS.

Parents had staged a protest for action against the teacher. The HM failed to file a complaint against the teacher or inform higher authorities.

The parents contacted Child Helpline (1098). Officials then recorded statements of parents, children and submitted a report to Kadur BEO M H Thimmayya, who lodged a police complaint. The assistant teacher and HM have been suspended.

DH
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ಅರಮನೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001. Email:mcublr@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮ.ಕ್ಲ.ವಿ/ಇ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ–108/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:20–06–2026

ಅತಿಥಿ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನ

ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ B.C.A. Data Science/ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, B.S.C. Data Science/ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, M.S.C. Data Science/ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, ಕೋರ್ಸುಗಳ ಬೋಧನಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಭಾರವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಅತಿಥಿ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**01–07–2026,** ಸಂಜೆ **5 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ** ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್:https://mcu.karnataka.gov.in/56/application/en ಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

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ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಪಿಪಿ/1288/ಪಿಸಿಎಲ್/2026–27

REAL(I)TY BITES: Won't force farmers to give up land, says Priyank

Bidadi township: Govt starts issuing compensation cheques to farmers amid protest

BENGALURU, DHNS

A major fight broke out over the government's plan to build a new township in Bidadi. While farmer groups and opposition leaders are getting ready for a massive protest march on Sunday, the state government has started giving out compensation money to farmers who agreed to part with their land.

Local MLA H C Balakrishna handed over the first set of cheques to over seven farmers from Kempaiahanapalya village on Friday evening.

The government has fixed the land price at Rs 2.30 crore per acre. The payout also includes extra money depending on the types of crops growing on the land.

The Magadi MLA said that out of three villages: Kempayyanapalya, Mandalahalli and Vaderahalli chosen for the project, nearly 270 farmers have applied for the money and had written their consent letters. The compensation money for the remaining farmers will be transferred through RTGS, he said.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Priyank Kharge told reporters that land is only being taken from people who agree to it. Speaking about land acquisition, Kharge said, "Out of 7,500 acres, farmers have agreed to give over 6,000 acres. We cannot do anything by force. In the past, when farmers said no, we gave their land back."

The ongoing protest, by farmers of Byramangala and Kanchugaranahalli, against the acquisition of fertile land for the proposed Bidadi Township project, entered the 466th day on Saturday. DH PHOTO

JD(S) foot march today

The JD(S) will take out a massive foot match on Sunday at Bidadi against the Bidadi Township project.

The march will be lead by party youth leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy and it will start from Anchipura village and end at Hosuru village with a public gathering.

The foot march will cover Anchipura Calony, Bannigiri, Marave Gowdadana Doddi, Gundutopu , Gollahalli, Kodipalya and Hosuru.

"Government has issued final notification to acquire over 518 acres of agricultural land in these villages and is ready to acquire 7,481 acres more. This is affecting 755 farmer families which are producing six lakh litres of milk a month and is uprooting over 10 lakh trees. We are organising this march to help the farmers save their land," Nikhil said in a statement.

Kumaraswamy is 'pitamaha' of project, says Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday described Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy the "pitamaha" (patriarch) of the controversial Bidadi township project, arguing that successive governments had backed the proposal, but BJP and JD(S) were now opposing it only for "political" reasons.

"Kumaraswamy notified it and Yediyurappa continued it. I am only taking it forward. Who developed Bidadi industrial area? Out of the existing 9,000 acres, around 1,000 acres were acquired during Jagadish Shettar's government. Were those land-losers not farmers," asked Shivakumar, at a press meet here.

Seeking to turn the criticism back on Kumaraswamy, Shivakumar said: "He is the Industries Minister. Let him tell me where I should acquire land for development. Everyone wants industries and jobs, but where does land come from?"

"As a former urban development minister, I wouldn't risk denotifying these lands and land in jail. Why did Kumaraswamy create a red zone there? Why did neither he nor Yediyurappa denotify the land when they were in power?" he said.

'Voluntary move'

Shivakumar said nearly 80% of landowners had come forward voluntarily and defended the compensation package offered by the government.

"The farmers are good people. Kumaraswamy himself had spoken about giving 8,000 sq ft of developed land to land-losers. We are offering best possible compensation of Rs 2.5 crore per acre," the chief minister said.

Govt misleading farmers: HDK

However, Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy called the cheque distribution a trick to tempt poor families. He also asked why a politician (the MLA) was handing out chques instead of government officers. "They want to take over 500 acres, so why did they give cheques to only a few people? This is just to trick the farmers," Kumaraswamy told the reporters.

He warned farmers that selling their land is a bad idea in the long run. "Taking Rs 2.30 crore now might seem like a lot of money. If you put it in a bank, you will get some interest. But if you keep your land, its value will grow to Rs 20 crore in the future. This land belongs to your ancestors. Do not lose it," he said.

Kumaraswamy announced that he will soon hold a meeting to show old government records proving how current leaders have changed their words on this project.

PMGKAY: Joshi objects to state govt's demand for caste certificates

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi on Saturday strongly objected to the state government's decision to seek caste certificates from beneficiaries of the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

Joshi said he has directed his ministry officials to seek a detailed explanation from the state authorities over the reported practice.

Officials in the state's Food and Civil Supplies Department have been reportedly asking PMGKAY beneficiaries to furnish caste certificates while issuing subsidised foodgrains.

The minister emphasised that only Aadhaar seeding and biometric authentication are mandatory for availing benefits.

"Seeking caste certificates at PDS outlets is illegal," he said in a statement.

Joshi reiterated the Modi government's position that access to food is a fundamental right and that grains are distributed based on economic criteria and entitlements under National Food Security Act, without any discrimination.

"Why should poor families be forced to run from office to office every month carrying caste certificates?" he said.

Imposing additional local conditions, the minister said, creates unnecessary hurdles.

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 012. Tel.: 080-23 460 460 (5 Lines)
Website:http://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/ e-mail: keauthority-ka@nic.in

No.:ED/KEA/R.S./13/2026 Date:20-06-2026

NOTIFICATION

Direct recruitment of 1421 Residual Parent Cadre and 179 Local Cadre Armed Police Constables (CAR / DAR) posts in Karnataka State Police Department

The Karnataka State Police department has requested Karnataka Examinations Authority to conduct Written Examination for direct recruitment of 1421 Residual Parent Cadre (RPC) and 179 Local Cadre Armed Police Constable (CAR /DAR) posts vacant in Police Department in the State of Karnataka, in accordance with the procedure and eligibility for direct recruitment to the posts of Police Constable cadre as revised in the Karnataka State Police Clerical Employees Services (Recruitment) Rules, 2004 and its (Amendment) Rules, 2009, 2014, 2016 and Government Order No. HD 44 PPA 2026 dated 13.04.2026 and as per the prevailing recruitment rules.

In this regard, Karnataka Examinations Authority has invited applications online from eligible candidates for direct recruitment of above mentioned Armed Police Constable (CAR / DAR) posts separately. Eligible candidates must apply online and appear for the Written Examination conducted by KEA.

a. Post Details:

Sl.No.	Post	Number of Vacant Posts	
		Men	Men
01	Armed Police Constable (CAR / DAR)	Residual Parent Cadre	Local Cadre
		1421	179

b. Pay Scale: 37500-900-39300-1000-43300-1125-47800-1250-52800-1375-58300-1500-64300-1650-7 4200-1900-76100

c. Pension facility: National Pension Scheme (NPS) facility will be applicable as per Government Order No.: FD (SPL) 04 PET 2005, Dated: 31.03.2006.

d. Educational Qualification: PUC or equivalent qualification.

e. Schedule to apply online:

i.	Commencement of Entry of Application Online	**22-06-2026**
ii.	Last Date to Enter Application details online	**22-07-2026**
iii.	Last date to pay the fees	**24-07-2026**

f. Written Examination Time Table:

Date / Day	Cadre	Timings	Subject	Total Questions	Total Marks	Hour / Duration
06-09-2026 SUNDAY	Residual Parent Cadre	10.30 am to 12.00 Noon	General studies covering General Knowledge, Science, Geography, History, the Constitution of India, the National Independence Movement, Mental Ability and Moral Education.	100	100	1 ½ Hours (90 Minutes)
06-09-2026 SUNDAY	Local Cadre	2.30 pm to 4.00 pm		100	100	1 ½ Hours (90 Minutes)

NEGATIVE EVALUATION:

- Each question in the question papers of the Written Examination has 04 alternative answers, from which the candidate has to select only one correct answer. For every wrong answer, 1/4th - **0.25** marks will be deducted.
- A fifth option/circle is provided on the OMR answer sheet. After the last bell, candidates will be given an additional **five minutes** to shade the fifth option/circle for any questions they choose not to answer. If a question is left completely blank and no option/circle is shaded, 0.25 marks will be deducted for that question.

NOTE:

a. Candidates should refer to the detailed notification published on the Website of KEA and Police Department for information and instructions such as age limit, pension facility, educational qualification, fee payment, written examination procedure, physical fitness test, endurance test, eligibility conditions, recruitment procedure etc.

b. All recruitment processes are subject to the orders and prevailing rules issued/to be issued by the Government or Competent Authorities from time to time.

Sd/- (H. Prasanna, IAS)
Executive Director.

DIPR/CP/JA/1290/2026-27

Upa Lokayukta finds cash, cheque in lab: BRIMS staff in soup

BIDAR, DHNS: Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa expressed his displeasure after a lab technician of Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences (BRIMS) failed to provide a proper explanation on Rs 1 lakh cash, a cheque for similar amount and several ATM cards found in his bag.

During his surprise visit to BRIMS, the Upa Lokayukta found the cash, a cheque leaf and several ATM cards in lab technician Sanjukumar Buyya's bag.

When Justice Veerappa questioned the lab technician on the source of money, Sanjukumar struggled to provide a proper explanation. Irked by this, the Upa Lokayukta took BRIMS medical superintendent Dr Shivayogi Bali to task. Justice Veerappa directed the superintendent to take up a suo motu case and inquire into large sums of money found in the bag of the employee in question.

Sources claimed that Sanjukumar Buyya was into real estate business and the money found in his bag was from a transaction pertaining to it.

The Upa Lokayukta expressed his anguish about the torn bed sheets and dilapidated beds. The beds are worse than those provided in jails, he said.

Kambala to be part of Mysuru Dasara this year

MYSURU, DHNS: The world famous Mysuru Dasara will have 'Kambala' for the first time as a special attraction this year.

The preparations for organising Kambala will begin three months in advance.

Deputy Commissioner G Lakshmikanth Reddy held a meeting and directed the officials to identify a minimum seven acres of land at Vijayanagar First Stage, Fourth Stage or near Sathagalli on Mysuru Ring Road for this purpose.

There should be adequate space to make provisions for accommodating the buffaloes, vehicle parking and the visitors' gallery, he said.

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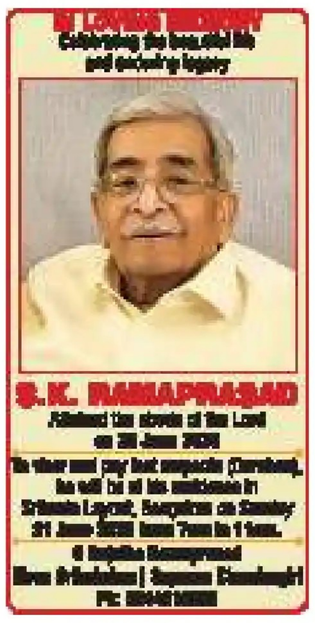


IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." -John 11:25

SUNDARI PICHAMUTHU
(W/o David Pichamuthu)
Funeral on Sunday (21st June) 2 PM at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1, MG Road followed by burial at Hosur Road Cemetery.
Beloved Wife, Mother, Sister, Grandmother and Friend.
David, Joseph and Reena, Mark and Jasmine, Bianca, Akash, Sabrina, Varsha
Mobile: 9342569764

KEA goes ahead with option entry round for seat allotment

Seat matrix for engg courses to be updated after govt nod

BENGALURU, DHNS

Even as the state government is yet to approve the final seat matrix for engineering courses, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has decided to start the seat allotment process. Consequently, the KEA commenced the option entry for engineering seats on Saturday.

Apart from engineering, students can enter their options on the KEA website for veterinary, agriculture and other professional courses. The KEA has reportedly received the final seat matrix for all the courses except engineering.

"We have started the option entry for engineering based on the draft seat matrix we have with us. When we receive the final seat matrix from the government, it will be added to the seat pool, and students will be allowed to enter their options," said a KEA official.

Candidates have time till 10 am on June 30 to enter the options to enrol in order of priority.

The mock seat allotment results will be announced by 11 am on July 6, and candidates will have time till July 9 to make any changes. The final result of the first round of seat allotment will be published on July 15.

Students appearing for the NEET re-exam on Sunday have been advised to wait, and enter their options from Monday onwards.

"The seat matrix for agriculture, veterinary science, and BSc (Nursing) has been published. KEA is awaiting the final seat matrix for engineering courses. Once we receive it, it will be added to the seat pool. Until then, candidates can enter their options based on the draft seat matrix," said KEA Executive Director H Prasanna.

In a bid to prevent students from having to endure a longer wait for seeking admission to non-medical courses, the KEA has decided not to proceed with the pre-first round allotment. The seat allotment process will begin with the first round, as usual.

The pre-first round allotment would have allowed candidates who secured the seats they wanted to proceed with the admission straight away.

However, stakeholders wanted students to have the same chances they would if the first round of counselling were conducted, including the chance to upgrade their seats. The KEA therefore decided against proceeding with the pre-first round of allotment.

Iran closes Strait of Hormuz over Lebanon fighting

Iran, From Page 3

The truce, agreed to on Friday afternoon, had appeared to largely hold, but early Saturday, Lebanese state media reported Israeli airstrikes on towns and cities in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli military said that Hezbollah had fired more than 50 projectiles at Israeli forces in southern Lebanon overnight, prompting Israeli strikes on what the military described as Hezbollah targets in the region.

In a statement Saturday, Hezbollah said that it was adhering to the ceasefire but accused Israel of attempting to advance overnight toward Ali al-Taher, a strategic ridge overlooking the Nabatiyeh area in southern Lebanon.

Leopardess trapped inside toilet rescued in Tarikere

TARIKERE (CHIKKAMAGALURU DISTRICT), DHNS: Forest Department personnel on Saturday rescued a three-year-old leopardess that was trapped inside an unused toilet in Mudugundi village in Tarikere taluk, Chikkamagaluru district.

The leopardess reportedly entered the toilet in pursuit of a dog that had taken shelter inside the structure. However, the toilet door shut as soon as the big cat entered inside. Residents who heard strange noises coming from the toilet immediately alerted the Forest Department.

Accordingly, Forest Department personnel rushed to the spot with nets and a cage.

A team of veterinarians led by Dr Shravan Singh tranquilised leopardess. Once sedated, the leopardess was captured, and was shifted to the Forest Department office.

Cong says BJP 'targeting' 97 of its seats in state via SIR

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Participants raise slogans during a protest against Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

The Congress, on Saturday, alleged that the BJP had 'plans' to target 97 Assembly constituencies held by it, through the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka.

"We suspect the BJP is planning to defeat us in 97 constituencies currently held by our party through SIR. We have intelligence inputs regarding this. We want to create awareness among voters, help them retain their votes and foil BJP's ploy in Karnataka," KPCC working president G C Chandrashekhar told a press meet here.

The Rajya Sabha member said the ruling party would launch a statewide campaign to ensure every eligible voter completed the enumeration process to prevent BJP from "benefiting" from the SIR exercise that begins on June 30.

"We have already trained our BLA-2s (booth-level agents-2). We will organise a Booth Samavesha to be attended by booth presidents and around 59,000 BLA-2s. We are also inviting leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi," he said.

The Congress plans to mobilise its booth-level network to assist voters in filling enumeration forms and ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the electoral rolls.

"The sole purpose of SIR is to win elections dubiously. It is a huge conspiracy and Congress has been preparing to tackle it, over the last eight months," he said.

Referring to voter deletions across the country, he contended, "There are six crore deleted voters in the country, including Hindus and Muslims. Not everyone is an illegal migrant".

"More than 102 political parties and organisations, barring BJP and JD(S), are backing us. We are simultaneously preparing for local body elections and are confident of winning all five corporations under Greater Bengaluru Authority," he said.

HDK dismisses rift with BJP over cross-voting in Council polls

Legislators may have fallen for constituency devpt funds, he says

BENGALURU, DHNS

Union Minister and Karnataka JD(S) president H D Kumaraswamy on Saturday dismissed reports of a rift between the regional party and its alliance partner BJP in the wake of the cross-voting controversy.

Interacting with reporters, Kumaraswamy said, "I have seen media reports claiming that differences have erupted between the BJP and JD(S) over cross-voting in the elections to the Upper House of the legislature. I would like to clarify that nothing can drive a wedge between the two parties."

The Union Minister said that he had spoken to both Karnataka and central BJP leaders ahead of the MLC elections.

"I spoke to Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka, and the party's national president Nitin Nabin before deciding on our candidate for the MLC elections. We had reached an agreement on the additional votes. I will meet Nabin again, and discuss the MLC elections," said Kumaraswamy.

The MLC election results will have no bearing on the 2028 Assembly elections, opined Kumaraswamy.

"If you recall the 2017 Rajya Sabha elections, seven to eight of our MLAs crossvoted in favour of the Congress. The Congress subsequently lost in the general elections," said Kumaraswamy.

The Karnataka JD(S) president said that the primary objective behind fielding a candidate in the Council elections had been to test the loyalty of the party MLAs.

Queried about JD(S) MLAs cross-voting in the MLC elections, Kumaraswamy said legislators may have succumbed to the offer of developmental funds for their respective constituencies.

Pointing out that even Congress MLAs were struggling to get developmental funds, Kumaraswamy said, "They have not received funds in the past three years. I know that funds to the tune of Rs 50 crore to Rs 100 crore were offered to each MLA to vote in favour of Congress."

Kumaraswamy said that he did not wish to discuss the issue any further, adding that his aim was to bring ensure a pro-people government came to power in the state.

Bommai terms cross-voting unfortunate, says those involved will be punished

HAVERI, DHNS: Accusing the ruling Congress of electoral malpractice during the recent elections to 7 Legislative Council seats, former chief minister and Haveri-Gadag MP Basavaraj Bommai said on Saturday that a committee led by MLC C T Ravi will find out the party MLAs who cross-voted and stringent action will be taken based on the report. He told reporters here, "Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is running the administration on money power. He indulged in horse-trading in Council polls. He lured a section of Opposition MLAs with money. We will ensure such mistakes are not repeated," he said.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters in Hubballi, "The BJP central leadership has taken the cross-voting issue in Council elections seriously."

CID inspector among 3 in custody for probe in dacoity case

BENGALURU, DHNS

A CID inspector and two real estate businessmen have been taken into three days police custody for further interrogation in connection with a dacoity case reported in Madiwala, after their arrest on Friday.

The accused, Mahesh Kanakagiri, inspector attached to CID-Homicide and Burglary Division, and two realtors Kupendra and Vasanth Kumar were part of a conspiracy that led to the dacoity of Rs 20 lakh from a group of Kerala-based businessmen who had come to Bengaluru believing they were participating in a bitcoin investment deal.

According to investigators, the complainant, Junish Babu from Malappuram in Kerala along with his friends Safeer and Aneesh were lured to Bengaluru by Naveen, who is believed to be based in Indonesia and Naveen allegedly introduced them to Shahin, who promised high returns through cryptocurrency trading.

During one of the meetings, Kerala men reportedly carried Rs 10 lakh. Shahin allegedly told them that the proposed investment could go ahead only if they brought Rs 20 lakh. Later, Shahin asked them to come to a lodge near Madiwala and while the cash was being counted inside the room, a gang led by Kupendra allegedly entered the room posing as police officers and decamped with the money after assaulting the victims.

Investigators said Kupendra had allegedly brought inspector Mahesh into the plan by claiming it was a lucrative deal. Kupendra drove the official CID jeep and used Mahesh's identity card to gain credibility. While Kupendra and others allegedly entered the lodge, Mahesh remained in the vehicle. All accused allegedly fled with the cash in the CID jeep after the dacoity.

Based on a tip-off, Madiwala police arrested Kupendra and Vasanth Kumar soon after FIR was registered while Mahesh was absconding till evening. A special team tracked down Mahesh at his relative's house in the city and all accused were produced before the court on Saturday. The court granted the accused to police custody till June 22 for further interrogation.

The probe gained a crucial lead after complainant Junish Babu secretly recorded portions of the crime on his mobile phone. Investigators are relying on the footage as key evidence in the case.

ED freezes Rs 6 crore in bank accounts of 5 firms during search

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has frozen bank accounts containing around Rs 6 crore after conducting searches at six premises linked to five different Bengaluru-based companies in connection with alleged unauthorised cross-border transfer of money using Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs).

In a statement, the ED said its Bengaluru Zonal Office carried out searches under Section 37 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, on June 17 at premises belonging to M/s Transak Technology India Private Limited, M/s Carretx Technologies Private Limited, M/s Mokshagna Technologies Private Limited, M/s Buyhatke Internet Pvt Ltd and M/s Abhibha Technologies Private Limited.

The searches were conducted based on allegations that multiple entities had facilitated unauthorised cross-border transfer of funds through virtual digital assets.

During the searches, the agency placed restraint orders on bank accounts allegedly used by some of the entities for the transactions. The accounts had a combined balance of Rs 6 crore, the ED said.

Officials suspect that the accounts were used to route funds outside the country without the required authorisation, in violation of FEMA provisions.

Hariprasad to take over as state Cong chief at mega rally today

Big show of strength in run-up to local body, Assembly elections

B K Hariprasad

BENGALURU, DHNS:

B K Hariprasad is set to formally assume charge as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president at a mega convention at Palace Grounds here on Sunday.

The ruling party is projecting the event as the beginning of its campaign for a series of elections.

At the ceremony, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, the outgoing KPCC chief, will formally hand over the party flag to Hariprasad.

Amid concerns over possible traffic disruptions for NEET examinees in Bengaluru, more than one lakh Congress workers are expected to attend the convention, arriving in around 1,200 buses from across the state.

"This is a festival of Congress workers. Hariprasad wanted a simple function at KPCC office. But as a national party, we wanted a major event. This is the decision of party workers, not leaders," KPCC working president G C Chandrashekhar told reporters after reviewing the preparations.

Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge, Shivakumar, former chief minister Siddaramaiah, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, general secretary (Karnataka incharge) Randeep Singh Surjewala, ministers, legislators and party office-bearers will attend.

"This convention will set the stage for the Greater Bengaluru Authority elections, local body polls and the 2028 Assembly elections, which we are confident will bring the Congress back to power. It will also prepare the organisation for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, when we will try to send the maximum number of MPs from Karnataka, to help make Rahul Gandhi the PM," Chandrashekhar said.

The party decided on a big event as the next two years would be crucial electorally, he said.

"We held several meetings with police to prevent traffic snarls. Seven committees will oversee arrangements, including transport, crowd management and medical services. Clear entry and exit points, route maps and parking facilities are marked. We have asked our cadre to reach the venue before 10 am".

The venue will have 70 food counters, six ambulances with doctors and two stages with capacity for 350 and 200 persons.

CM announces new dept for grievance redressal

Cabinet, From Page 3

Fifty per cent of rooms in the new facility will be reserved for SC and ST students.

The government has also cleared the purchase of 620 buses at a cost of Rs 235 crore, including 400 for rural routes and 220 for the North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation. Electric bus depots will be developed at 11 locations at Rs 112 crore, and a modern bus stand will be built at Sandur (Rs 30 crore).

A 15-day window will be provided to avail electricity connections to all buildings completed before May 31, 2026, subject to submission of building photograph and GPS records. Rural silk-rearing houses and cattle sheds have also been exempted.

On a proposed bus fare revision amid diesel price hikes and price disparities, Shivakumar said a final decision would be taken keeping public interest in mind while ensuring the financial viability of KSRTC.

The Cabinet also authorised the CM to nominate members to the five MLC seats that will fall vacant in July and also to the various Cabinet sub-committees.

B'luru braces for traffic controls as NEET, mega events coincide

NEET, From Page 3

Traffic police officials said they have drawn up diversion plans around marathon routes, Yoga Day congregation sites and major political programmes, and would manage intersections near examination centres to prioritise candidates' movement.

"We have taken all necessary steps to facilitate hassle-free travel for the general public and examination candidates. Candidates are advised to reach centres well before the reporting time and cooperate with security checks," a senior traffic officer told *DH*.

Meanwhile, students in the city expressed mixed emotions. One candidate, who had done well in the earlier attempt, said he was anxious about the paper's difficulty: "I am worried about the toughness of the paper as it was easy for me the first time and I did well."

Another aspirant, attempting the exam again, described the grind as stressful: "We were forced to undergo this pressure and stress. Expecting an easy and simple paper," she said.

GBA eyeing pvt properties to create parking spaces

Parking, From Page 3

Similarly, Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) officials have also been asked to identify such vacant plots. "I have asked officials to identify such vacant plots whether government or private. Based on the identification, we will initiate talks with the property owners and see how it can be used for parking," said K N Ramesh, commissioner, BSCC.

Property owners will also be incentivised if they are willing to set up a parking space independently. The corporations are also identifying unused government properties below flyovers and open spaces to provide for the increasing need for parking spaces.

The need for more parking spaces has emerged as the five city corporations and the Bengaluru Traffic Police are now preparing to enforce strict on-street parking rules and pay-and-parking on many city roads. "On-street paid parking cannot be provided on all roads since many city roads are narrow and this creates a need to provide better parking facilities," a senior GBA official said.

SILENT DEFECTOR Sudip outmanoeuvres party founder Mamata after a series of denials

The loyalist who tipped the balance in the TMC revolt

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Sidelined time and again, Sudip Bandyopadhyay all set to head the dissident TMC group in the Lok Sabha. PTI FILE

Early last week, when a team from the West Bengal Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) reached the residence of former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief called one of her trusted aides. "I'm sending over Nayana," responded TMC Lok Sabha member and former Union minister Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

A couple of days later, as rebellion within the party spiralled, Mamata called Nayana Bandyopadhyay — Sudip's wife and a five-time TMC legislator — to enquire about her husband's whereabouts. "Don't know where Sudeep is," she was told. By then, Bandyopadhyay had landed in Delhi and was on his way to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Later that evening, he joined a group of 19 MPs at the residence of the BJP's Bengal in-charge and Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, where they signed the paperwork to merge their faction with a little-known party from Tripura.

The blank space in the 13th row of the list of potential defectors circulating on social media had been filled in by none other than Bandyopadhyay, completing the requisite two-thirds ensemble needed for a merger with another party.

"Most MPs and MLAs want party chief Mamata Banerjee to be the chief adviser and continue in a role similar to that of a leader. Their appeal touched me," Bandyopadhyay subsequently told reporters.

The loyalist

Bandyopadhyay, originally from Berhampore in Murshidabad district, was an early mover in Bengal politics. Mentored by former Union minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, he was barely in his twenties when he was appointed president of the West Bengal Youth Congress.

He slowly rose through the ranks and won two Assembly polls on Congress tickets. Then, when Mamata announced the formation of TMC on New Year's Day in 1998, Bandyopadhyay was among those who walked out of the Congress with her.

The party faced its first electoral test a few months later in the Lok Sabha elections. The TMC won seven of Bengal's 42 seats, including all three in Kolkata, secured by Mamata, Ajit Panja (at whose house the party's formation was announced), and Bandyopadhyay.

The BJP-led NDA government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee lasted only 13 months. In the mid-term polls a year later, the TMC formally joined the NDA and increased its tally to eight, while helping the saffron party win two seats.

Mamata became the railway minister. Panja was also included in the Cabinet. Bandyopadhyay was asked to wait for his turn.

Between 1999 and 2004, rifts within the NDA started to show. Samata Party chief and then Union defence minister George Fernandes was seen to be close to Vajpayee, while deputy prime minister LK Advani promoted Nitish Kumar.

Similarly, in the TMC, Vajpayee developed good working ties with Mamata. During his Kolkata trip in July 2000, he visited her modest home on Harish Chatterjee Street. Meanwhile, Bandyopadhyay moved closer to the Advani camp.

Mamata quit the NDA ahead of the 2001 West Bengal Assembly polls, citing corruption allegations against the NDA government.

However, the somersault failed to impress the electorate. The CPM-led Left Front returned to power with a resounding mandate, leaving Didi with no option but to return to the NDA fold.

In May 2003, Vajpayee decided to expand his Cabinet one last time before the next Lok Sabha polls. On the eve of the expansion, Mamata learnt from a Delhi-based journalist that Bandyopadhyay would fill the TMC's ministerial quota.

Furious, she informed then-BJP president Venkaiah Naidu that the TMC would immediately withdraw support if Bandyopadhyay was sworn in without her consent.

A jittery Naidu called up Sudheendra Kulkarni, then officer on special duty to the PM. Mamata was assured that no TMC leader would be sworn in. Once again, Bandyopadhyay missed the bus.

Fall and resurgence

Sidelined, Bandyopadhyay drifted away from the TMC. Denied a Lok Sabha ticket in 2004, he contested as an Independent and contributed to the party's defeat in his constituency. Meanwhile, the TMC was decimated across the state. Mamata was the only party leader who returned to the Lok Sabha.

Bandyopadhyay, on the other hand, joined the Congress and won the 2006 Assembly polls from Bow Bazar. But he soon felt stifled in there, and mended fences with Mamata to return to the TMC, on whose ticket he won the 2009 Lok Sabha polls.

When Mamata won the 2011 Assembly polls to become the West Bengal chief minister, Bandyopadhyay finally got his chance: He became a Union minister in the Manmohan Singh government and was elevated as the leader of the TMC Parliamentary Party.

He continued as the TMC's leader in the Lok Sabha until August 2025, when Mamata replaced him with her nephew and political heir apparent, Abhishek Banerjee.

In less than a year, Bandyopadhyay is back in the limelight, all set to head the dissident TMC group in the Lok Sabha as the leader of the second-biggest bloc in the NDA.

Acquittals in 20-yr-old case may impact Sena battle

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

UNCERTAIN MOVE

- Pavanraje Nimbalkar, father of Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Omraje Nimbalkar, was shot dead on June 3, 2006
- There are speculations that Omraje may join Eknath Shinde-led faction
- However, the MP is unhappy with the court verdict and will decide his political course of action after 'consulting supporters' in his constituency

In a verdict that could have ramifications beyond the courtroom and into Maharashtra's shifting political landscape, a Special CBI Court on Saturday acquitted former minister Dr Padamsinh Patil and seven others in the 20-year-old murder case of Congress leader Pavanraje Nimbalkar and his driver Samad Kazi.

The verdict assumes significance at a time when Pavanraje's son, Dharashiv MP Omprakash Bhupalsinh alias Omraje Nimbalkar of the Shiv Sena (UBT), is at the centre of speculations over a possible switch to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

Patil (86), a former minister and one-time close aide of Sharad Pawar, is the stepbrother of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP president Sunetra Pawar. He and Pavanraje were first cousins, but their relationship deteriorated into a fierce political rivalry.

Additional Sessions Judge SR Navandar, who presided over the Special CBI Court, held that the prosecution had failed to establish the conspiracy beyond reasonable doubt.

"There was no complete chain of circumstances and no substantial evidence to prove the alleged conspiracy," the court observed while acquitting all the accused.

The court also noted that witness testimonies were inconsistent and that crucial scientific and electronic evidence was either unavailable or inadequately presented.

Reacting to the verdict, Omraje expressed disappointment and indicated that he would consult supporters before taking any future political decisions.

"I am not satisfied with the judgment. I will return to Dharashiv, meet my supporters and then decide my future course of action," he said.

The judgment comes days after Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut alleged that Omraje would be offered a "favourable verdict" if he joined the Shinde-led Shiv Sena. The allegation had triggered a political controversy, though no evidence was produced to support the claim.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Lok Sabha chief whip Anil Desai said the acquittal was a major setback for Omraje, who had closely followed the case for years.

Pavanraje Nimbalkar (42) and Kazi were shot dead in Raigad district on June 3, 2006.

While the verdict closes a decades-long legal chapter, it remains to be seen whether it also influences the next phase of the ongoing Sena-versus-Sena battle.

Nagpur student gets Abu Dhabi centre in NTA mix-up

Agency says candidate selected foreign exam city

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, DHNS

The National Testing Agency (NTA) once again found itself embroiled in controversy after a student in Nagpur, appearing for the NEET UG 2026 re-examination, claimed that the centre allotted to him was in Abu Dhabi.

However, the NTA said the candidate had himself selected the exam venue, and that he has now been allotted a centre in Nagpur following his request.

Abdullah Mohammad Talib (18) discovered the error after downloading his admit card from the official website on Friday. The admit card mentioned an examination centre in UAE's Abu Dhabi.

"After the admit card was downloaded at 4 pm yesterday, we found the Centre mentioned to be a school in Abu Dhabi. We were really shocked as we had not given anything as such in our options," his father, Mohammed Talib, said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi flagged the discrepancy and slammed the BJP-led NDA dispensation.

NTA was quick to respond, saying: "The grievance is being addressed and the candidate will be allocated a centre in Nagpur, after due verification, in the next few hours."

The agency also said its web activity records showed that the city change was made through the candidate's own registered login during the correction window and reflected a consistent single-user access pattern.

"NTA has observed that... one (sic) the centre was changed to Abu Dhabi using the candidate's credentials and twice it was previewed that the centre is Abu Dhabi," it said.

NTA further said it received an informal request on the evening of June 19 seeking a change of centre back to Nagpur, and it immediately initiated the process. Officials also contacted the candidate's father the same evening to facilitate completion of the formalities.

'Student-first' approach

Emphasising what it described as a "student-first approach", the agency said its priority was that "no candidate misses the examination over an administrative doubt".

The agency said after the rescheduling of NEET (UG), around 3.2 lakh candidates used the reopened examination-city correction window and more than 99.5% allotted their preferred cities.

NEET-UG 2026 retest: By the numbers

EXAM FOOTPRINT
5,440 centres across India
551 cities in India
14 overseas centres
Exam in English + 12 Indian languages
95,000+ exam rooms

ANTI-CHEATING MEASURES
51,311 jammers deployed
- 17,054 by ECIL
- 34,257 by BEL

CCTV feeds monitored at national, state and ministry levels

A police official keeps a vigil through CCTV cameras ahead of the NEET re-examination, in Lucknow on Saturday. PTI

SURVEILLANCE & MONITORING
1,38,560 CCTV cameras
6,700 observers deployed on the ground
AI-based analysis of CCTV footage to flag anomalies
CCTV IN EVERY EXAM ROOM
100+ virtual observers monitoring feeds centrally

CANDIDATE VERIFICATION
38,795 frisking staff
48,448 biometric verification personnel
Biometric manpower doubled
Face authentication enabled

EXAM-DAY STAFF
2 invigilators per room
10+ additional functionaries per centre
5,440 Centre Systems Officers (CSOs), one at each centre

SECURITY DEPLOYMENT
- 40-50 security personnel per centre on average
- **Support from:** Police, Paramilitary forces, Indian Air Force and state & district administration

LOGISTICS & MATERIAL SECURITY
- Bank officials deployed at 1,500 bank branches holding confidential material
- Around 700 collection centres for OMR sheet pickup coordinated by the Department of Posts

Comprehensive arrangements in place: NTA

NEW DELHI, DHNS: On the eve of the re-conduct of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) — NEET (UG) — the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday said it had put in place an unprecedented security and monitoring apparatus across the country to ensure a fair and smooth test, scheduled for June 21.

In a statement, the NTA said it has put in place "comprehensive arrangements" to ensure a "fair, secure and candidate-friendly" conduct of re-examination.

More than 22.79 lakh medical aspirants are expected to appear for the re-examination, , nearly seven weeks after the original test was cancelled following allegations of a paper leak that triggered nationwide outrage, political sparring and legal challenges.

The re-examination will be held from 2 pm to 5.15 pm across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad.

Candidates with disabilities (PwD/PwBD) eligible for compensatory time will be allowed to write the examination till 6.20 pm.

CJP's Delhi stir may go overnight amid police intervention

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

CJP founder Abhijit Dipke during a protest over alleged examination irregularities, in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijit Dipke on Saturday dramatically announced an indefinite sit-in at Jantar Mantar here, escalating the demand for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation in the midst of an otherwise one-day protest.

However, the police denied permission, leading to an apparent standoff at the capital's dharna hotspot.

Past midnight, scores of protesters — including Dipke and members of Left students organisations like the AISA, SFI, and the AISF — were still at Jantar Mantar, continuing their protest amid signals that they might be allowed to continue to sit there, as the police allowed them to bring in drinking water besides lighting up the area.

Amid "Go Pradhan Go" chants, Dipke softened the stand by telling the police that they were willing to shift the protest if the authorities allotted another space, even as activist Sonam Wangchuk earlier told the crowd that he would sit on a fast in Jantar Mantar next Saturday if "accountability" was not fixed.

Dipke, holding a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar during the protest, also asked the Delhi Police to facilitate a channel of communication with the government, besides demanding compensation of Rs 1 crore to the families of students who died by suicide following the NEET paper leak.

Protesters had started gathering at Jantar Mantar a little before 1 pm on Saturday with "cockroach" masks and posters, as rappers enthralled them with peppy songs while student leaders addressed the gathering, citing the suicide of at least 12 students in the past month and ahead of the NEET re-test on Sunday, the repeated instances of paper leaks, and the CBSE marking fiasco.

Several students and youth also joined the protest with plates and spoons, banging them during the protest.

As the protest neared its 5 pm deadline, Dipke changed gears and asked protesters whether the students who died by suicide should get justice and whether they should continue with their protest till Pradhan resigned.

'No locus standi': India rejects Pak Prez's remarks on Kashmir

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Saturday trashed remarks on Kashmir by Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, asserting that he has no locus standi to comment on India's internal matters.

"India categorically rejects the unwarranted comments made by the President of Pakistan. He has, in any case, no locus standi to comment on matters that are internal to India," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

He added that the remarks were "particularly absurd" given Pakistan's "abysmal record on human rights", which he said was a matter of global concern.

Jaiswal said Pakistan's "long history of systematically targeting and victimising minorities across various faiths is notorious."

"Given this reality, the President's remarks can only be read as a deliberate political attack driven by Pakistan's national policies of bigotry and hatred," he said.

Five killed in Maharashtra temple collapse

MUMBAI, DHNS: At least five persons were killed and several others injured when a portion of an under-construction assembly hall (*sabha mandap*) at the Hanuman Temple in Yashwadi village in Maharashtra's Parbhani district collapsed on Saturday, triggering a major rescue operation.

Condoling the deaths, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced an ex gratia assistance of Rs 5 lakh each for the families of the deceased.

According to officials, around 20 people had been pulled out from the debris. Of them, 15 sustained injuries and were shifted to nearby hospitals. Some were reported to be in a critical condition.

Minister of State for Women and Child Development Meghna Bordikar said instructions had been issued immediately to the district administration, police, health department, and disaster management authorities to expedite rescue operations.

IN BRIEF

India to host BRICS security talks

▸ **NEW DELHI, PTI:** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian NSA Sergei Shoigu and other top BRICS security officials will converge in New Delhi on Monday for a two-day conclave that will focus on pressing geopolitical and regional security challenges.

The conclave of BRICS National Security Advisers will be chaired by NSA Ajit Doval.

The Chinese Foreign Minister Wang is expected to hold a bilateral meeting with Doval. It is learnt that the Iranian Supreme National Security Council's deputy secretary, Nezamipour, is also expected to join the conclave that is set to prepare the grounds for the BRICS summit to be held in September in India.

Rs 440-crore TMC funds frozen

▸ **KOLKATA, PTI:** The debit operations of three bank accounts of the Trinamool Congress holding around Rs 440 crore have been frozen following complaints by rebel party MLAs seeking a probe into the source of the funds, deepening the bitter internal battle over control of the Opposition party's financial war chest.

A senior police officer said the three accounts maintained with a private sector bank were placed under "debit freeze", preventing withdrawals or outward transactions, though credits may continue to be received.

In their complaints, the legislators questioned the source of funds deposited in the accounts and sought an inquiry into transactions carried out through them.

Mob disrobes NGO worker in Odisha

▸ **BHUBANESWAR, PTI:** The mob attack on two NGO workers, including a woman, who was allegedly molested and disrobed in Odisha's Rayagada district recently, sparked a political row on Saturday.

Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik described it as a "barbaric and shameful" act, while the ruling BJP asserted that several people were arrested in connection with the case. The Congress alleged that the incident involving two NGO workers from Delhi is a "glaring sign of the collapse of law and order" in the state.

The incident took place at Kandulguda village on the night of June 16, when villagers mistook the 22-year-old woman and a man of similar age as child-lifters and assaulted them.

The police have so far arrested 21 people and registered three criminal cases.

3 Indian-flagged oil tankers transit through Strait of Hormuz

NEW DELHI, PTI

Three Indian-flagged crude oil tankers carrying over 8.6 lakh million tonnes of cargo with 94 crew members from the country transited through the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday and are en route to India, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said.

The three crude oil tankers -- Desh Vaibhav, Desh Vibhor, and Sanmar Herald -- are expected to arrive in India between June 24 and July 1.

While Desh Vaibhav is expected to reach Vadinar Port on June 24, Desh Vibhor is likely to arrive at Sikka Port the same day. Sanmar Herald, the third Indian-flagged oil tanker to cross the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, is scheduled to reach Paradip on July 1.

"3 Indian-flagged crude oil tankers, Desh Vaibhav, Desh Vibhor and Sanmar Herald carrying over 8.6 Lakh MT of cargo with 94 Indian crew members have successfully transited the Strait of Hormuz today and are en route to India," Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sonowal said in a post on X.

HARDEEP SINGH PURI
Union Petroleum Minister

"At present, companies have stocks of crude oil bought at higher prices. When crude purchased at lower prices reaches them, there is a possibility of a reduction in fuel prices.

'Absolute safety'

"Under the decisive leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji, GoI is working on highest priority to secure India's maritime interests. Our Ministry is actively coordinating with all relevant agencies to guarantee the absolute safety of Bharat's seafarers and energy lifelines," he wrote.

The United States on Thursday lifted its blockade of Iran, allowing oil tankers to move through the Strait of Hormuz as a tentative agreement to end the war took effect.

Congress-Tharoor row erupts over Modi 'admiration' comment

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Congress on Saturday slammed party member Shashi Tharoor over his "admiration" for Narendra Modi, saying it appears to have transcended the physical world as he now seems capable of hearing what the prime minister never even said.

Shashi Tharoor

Pawan Khera

Tharoor, the party's Thiruvananthapuram MP, however, said he found it extraordinary that a statement about protecting Indian civilian sailors was given a partisan twist.

The row was sparked by Tharoor's reported remarks that "PM Modi made his point clear both in the public and private meetings with the president."

He reportedly said, "It is important to convey the message that in wartime, civilian sailors on commercial ships should not be targets of combat. They are not soldiers, and that is the message PM Modi conveyed."

Asked about the comments, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said at a press conference that he had not seen Tharoor's statement but he had also not seen in the India-US joint statement a mention of the killing of three Indian sailors by the United States in the Gulf of Oman.

Tharoor on X responded, "Frankly, I find it extraordinary that a statement about protecting Indian civilian sailors is being twisted into a partisan political controversy..."

If some people are more interested in scoring political points than addressing that concern, that says more about them than it does about me, he said.

Later, tagging a video clip of his own remarks at the presser, Khera on X said, "My senior colleague Dr Shashi Tharoor's admiration for PM Modi appears to have transcended the limitations of the physical world. He now seems capable of hearing what Modi doesn't even say."

Donors question missing silver at Ram Temple

Allege they have received neither receipts nor proof of the offering

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

AAP workers stage a protest against Ram Mandir Trust in Ayodhya over alleged irregularities. PTI

Despite walking almost 200 km with his family, including women and children, to offer a 3 kg silver garland and a silver 'charan paduka' (sandals) at the Ayodhya Ram Temple in October last year, Anil Vishwakarma is yet to receive a receipt for the donation.

After walking for seven days, the family reached Ayodhya, and on October 30, 2025, the family carried the items on their heads and offered them at the temple. However, even after eight months, Vishwakarma has not been given receipts for the donations made.

Vinod Mishra, who was the priest of Ayodhya's Rokadia Hanuman Temple, said that the Vishwakarma family members were his disciples and he had accompanied them to the Ram Temple during their donation ceremony.

"The priests kept the donated items at the feet of Ramlala, and later they were given to another person," Mishra claimed. The family was assured that the receipt and a picture showing Lord Rama's idol wearing the garland would be sent to them, but till now neither was provided, he added.

Another donor, Anurag Rastogi, who was the North India head of Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association, alleged that there was no trace of the 60 kg silver donated by the association. The silver was collected from bullion traders across the country, converted into bricks and donated at the Ram Temple. The bricks carried the names and 'gotras' (patrilineal lineage) of the donors.

The bricks were to be used in the temple foundation. Rastogi said that although he was provided a receipt for the donation, he could not see the silver bricks during the 'Neev Pujan' of the temple. He added that the 1-kg silver lamp, two silver bowls and a pair of 'nag-nagin (snake pair) he personally donated have also "gone missing".

Earlier, saffron leader and president of Dharm Sena Santosh Dube had alleged that hundreds of golden and silver 'Ram Shilas' (bricks) collected from donors were missing.

Meanwhile, the three-member SIT, formed to investigate the allegations, continued its probe on the sixth day. It had been asked to submit an interim report within a week and a final report within a fortnight.

Five suspects have been identified in connection with the 'missing fund'. All of them were among those who counted the offerings.

India's oldest nuclear power reactors back on electricity grid

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's two oldest nuclear power reactors are back on the electricity grid for the next 10 years following extensive modernisation and refurbishment works, official sources said.

The first two units at Tarapur Atomic Power Station — TAPS-1 and TAPS-2 with a capacity of 160 MWe each — have been reconnected to the grid after a gap of more than five years. Set up in 1969, the two boiling water reactors are also the world's oldest functional nuclear power plants.

Post-refurbishment, TAPS-1 has been operating since last December. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) last month approved TAPS-2 to operate for another 10 years, following which it has been synchronised to the grid.

"Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) units 1 & 2 are delivering power to the nation together, with TAPS-2 successfully synchronised to the national grid. TAPS-1 is already operational and generating clean power," the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) said.

TARAPUR RETURNS

- First two units of Tarapur Atomic Power Station back on the electricity grid for another 10 years
- The units underwent extensive modernisation and refurbishment works
- The reactors are the world's oldest functional nuclear power plants
- The milestone comes days after another achievement at NPCIL's most advanced nuclear power reactor at Kudankulam

The refurbishment included the complete replacement of reactor coolant recirculation piping with forged piping and fittings made of advanced corrosion-resistant stainless steel, the AERB said.

During the extended outage, inspections of critical reactor components such as reactor pressure vessel welds were carried out as part of the assessment of the unit's ageing status and residual operating life. "The evaluations have shown that the reactor can continue safe operation with the normal maintenance and surveillance programme," the AERB said.

"The successful operation of both units marks another significant milestone in India's nuclear energy journey and demonstrates the strength of indigenous capabilities, engineering excellence and a robust safety culture," the NPCIL said in a social media post.

Most advanced reactor

The achievement comes days after NPCIL reached another milestone in the construction of its most advanced nuclear power reactor at Kudankulam nuclear power plant when the 320 tonne reactor pressure vessel of the fifth unit was successfully erected.

The RPV is the heart of a nuclear power plant, housing the reactor core where the nuclear fission reaction takes place.

The Kudankulam site comprises six units, each with a 1000 MWe capacity. Of these, the first two units have been functioning for more than a decade, while construction is in the final stages for the third and fourth units, which are likely to be commissioned in the next few months.

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Director, 4th Floor, Annex-3, Narasimharaja Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No: AD(AH)/(BCCC)/PR-70/2026-27 Date: 20.06.2026

RFP Notification
(Through GOK KPPP only) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

BCCC invites tender from eligible bidders for providing short term **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR COLLECTION OF ENTRANCE FEES AND SLAUGHTER FEES FOR SMALL ANIMAL AT CITY MEAT PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING CENTRE, USMANKHAN ROAD, BCCC BY INTERESTED NGO/FIRM/ORGANISATION** on Outsourced Basis.

Following is the Events of Tender process:

1.	Tender Reference No.	BCCC/2026-27/SE0230
2.	Date of Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document from KPP Portal **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	from 20.06.2026 onwards
3.	Tender Inviting Authority	Chief Veterinary Officer (Animal Husbandry) BCCC.
4.	Tender Accepting Authority	Commissioner, BCCC.
5.	Last Date and Time for uploading of Online Queries in KPP Portal	23.06.2026 upto 5:00 p.m.
6.	Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting	23.06.2026 at 12:30 p.m. at the following venue: Office of AD, BCCC, Annex 3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.
7.	Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in KPP Portal	04.07.2026 upto 5:00 p.m.
8.	Date and Time Opening of RFP in KPP Portal	06.07.2026 at 11:00 a.m.
9.	Place of Opening of RFP	Online at KPP Portal
10.	Address for Communication	Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), Annex-3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002. Phone: 9242260699 E-mail: adahbccc@gmail.com

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. **(2)** Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), BCCC.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited invites tender vide Indent No.: BESCOM/2026-27/IND0263 for **Supply of No.15 Strain Insulators (HT Guy Strain)** through KPP Portal. **Bid Documents available from:** 24.06.2026. **Last date for submission of Bids:** 24.07.2026, 17:30 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 27.07.2026, 11:00 Hrs. The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.) Procurement, BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No:BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-89/2026-27 Date: 20.06.2026

SHORT-TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)

Short-term tender is invited for Housing Project work by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT255)

Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **21.06.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **23.06.2026, 11.00 A.M. (3)** Date and time of tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **24.06.2026, 3.00 P.M. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **15.07.2026, 4.00 P.M. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **16.07.2026 after 4.30 P.M.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division, BDA,Bengaluru

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
1st floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: bhoomi.bmc01@gmail.com Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2026-27/IND0034 Date: 20/06/2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for procurement of **"100 Mobile Phones for District Hardware Consultants, Bhoomi Technical team, BMC Staff, Revenue Department, Karnataka".** The last date for uploading filled tender form in K.P.P Portal is **04/07/2026 by 5.28 P.M.** Details regarding terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/1276/SMCL/26-27

Sd/- Assistant Commissioner, Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Palace Road, Bangalore-560001, Phone: 22204928.

No.DTE-PLAN0SPS1/9/2026 Date: 19.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner for Collegiate and Technical Education Bangalore hereby invites bids in Two-Cover system through KPP Portal from eligible bidders for the following tender. The Tender Documents with detailed terms and conditions may be obtained from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Tender Schedules are as below

Item Name	Date of floating tender in KPP Portal	Date and time of pre-bid meeting	Last date and time for bidding through KPP Portal
DTE/2026-27/IND0047 Supply,Intallation & Maintenance of Desktop computers	17.06.2026	06.07.2026 at 12:00 Noon	17.07.2026 at 5:29 p.m.

The Department reserves the right to cancel or reject the tenders without any notification. Details in this regard may be obtained in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/CP/RO1282/AAPL/2026-27

Sd/- Director, Department of Technical Education

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೀರಶೈವ-ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
5ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಗೋಪುರ, ಡಾ. ಬಿ.ಆರ್ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 001. ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : mdveerashaivalingayathagok2021@gmail.com
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080-22865522

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕ.ವೀ.ಲಿಂ.ಅ.ನಿ./ಪಿ-3/ಪಿಆರ್-34/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.06.2026

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೀರಶೈವ-ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮದಿಂದ ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಬೀದರ್ ಉತ್ತರ, ಬಸವಕಲ್ಯಾಣ, ಭಾಲ್ಕಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹುಮನಾಬಾದ್ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ (01) ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ 46 ಘಟಕಗಳ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.29 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೀರಶೈವ-ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ (ನಿ), 5ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಗೋಪುರ, ಡಾ॥ ಬಿ.ಆರ್ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560001, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-22865522 ಅನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಕ.ವೀ.ಲಿಂ.ಅ.ನಿ.ನಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಬೆಂ.ನ./ಜಿವಿ/1284/2026-27

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC Division-4, Chikodi. Phone: 08338-272485,
E-mail: ee_knnlgrbc4ckd@rediffmail.com

No: KNNL/GRBCC-4/Tender/2026-27/01 Date: 19-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Percentage Rate Tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the **Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru** for the work mentioned below. Consisting of **14 Works of H/A 4701.** The blank tender document can be downloaded from KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka. **(https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 19-06-2026.**

Indent Nos: **Two Cover System - General** - Indent No: **4560, 4569, 4571, 4553, 4555, 4568, 4557, 4556, 4554, 4570, 4552, 4558, 4559, Category - II(A) :** Indent No. **4561,** Approximated Amount Put to Tender: **Rs. 42.22 Lakhs to 84.65 Lakhs,** EMD Amount: **Rs. 84,700/- to 1,69,600/-,** Last Date and Time for Tender Quarries / Clarifications: **08-07-2026 upto 17.00 Hours.** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **09-07-2026 upto 16.00 Hours,** Date of Opening of Tenders (Two Cover System): Technical Bid - **10-07-2026 at 16.30 Hours.** Financial Bid - **13-07-2026 at 16.30 Hours.**

Further information can be had from the undersigned from the following Phone: **08338-272485** and from KPP Portal **(https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** during office hours.

The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

DIPR/Belagavi/470/Adverto/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC Division-4, Chikodi.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.1 T.R.Division, Munirabad.

EE/KNNL/No.1 T R Dvn/Mrb/4701/2026-27/667 Date:17.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through e-procurement system)(Two Cover)

Tenders in Electronic mode on "PERCENTAGE BASIS"are invited, from eligible contractors registered in the e-Procurement portal of the Public Works Department / KNNL, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.-1 T.R. Division, Munirabad, Koppal District, on behalf of the Managing Director, Karnataka NeeravariNigama Limited (KNNL), Bengaluru, under a Two-Cover System (Cover-I and Cover-II), under Head of Account 4701 pertaining to Head Works Sub-Division, Munirabad, for the following two works, the details of which are given below.

Sl. No	Name of Work	TENDER DOCUMENT	Amount put to Tender (Rs.n Lakh)	Contractor Grade	Closing Date	Opening Date
1	CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACH ROAD, RCC DRAIN, LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT WORKS, VEHICULAR PARKING AND STREET LIGHT WORKS FOR VVIP GUEST HOUSE AT KAILASA, MUNIRABAD IN KOPPAL TALUK & KOPPAL DISTRICT.	KW-4	374.26	KPWD Class-II or above	**02.07.2026** @ 4:00 PM	**03.07.2026** @ 4:30 PM
2	PROVIDING INTERIORS AND FURNITURES TO VVIP GUEST HOUSE AT KAILASA, MUNIRABAD.	KW-4	194.75	KPWD Class-III or above	**02.07.2026** @ 4:00 PM	**03.07.2026** @ 4:30 PM

The Pre bid meeting will be held at Chief Engineer, KNNL, ICZ Munirabd office, on **23/06/2026** at 11.30 A.M. For more information visit web site at (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) & contact undersigned office in all working days during office hours and also via email:trdmrb@gmail.com.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL No.1 T.R.Division, Munirabad

DIPR/Koppal/178/KSMCA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Department Of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore
Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Indiranagara, Mysuru-570010, Telephone No : 0821-2424673/74, ,
Email- commr_amh@yahoo.in, Web : https://archaeology.karnataka.gov.in, https://nammakarnataka.in

Notification Number: DAMH/CW/T-05/2026-27 Date: 17.06.2026

On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the Department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the item-wise tender for the 03 Conservation Work **DAMH/OW/WORK_INDENT-139/CALL-3, 203/Call-03 & 215/Call-4 and 02 Service Tenders (DAMH/2025-26/SE0036/Call-5 & SE0037/Call-5)** The Minimum amount of **Rs.82.48 lakhs** and Maximum amount **Rs.529.22 lakhs** as per the tender documents KW-3 & 4 under the tender documents and RFP of Service Tenders. The Tender documents can be obtained through **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** e-portal from **date:19.06.2026** onwards.

Last date and time of any Queries for tender	**25.06.2026, 17.00 hrs**
Last date and time of tender submission	**03.07.2026, 16.00 hrs**
Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	**06.07.2026, 16.30 hrs**
Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	**07.07.2026, 11.00 hrs**

Sd/- Commissioner
Department of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage,Mysore.

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/358/2026-27

Government Of Karnataka
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT, KOPPAL

SI NO:AD/YESD/KPL/SHPM/CR-48(A)/2026-27/1104 Date: 18.06.2026

Short Term Tender Notification
(Through KPPP Portal Only)

The Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Koppal- Karnataka has invited The Following Tender Through the KPPP Portal to Select Eligible Contractors for Supplying Daily Meals to the Athletes of the Following Sports Residential School/ Hostel Department Of Youth Empowerment and Sports Koppal.

Particulars Of Tender : (1) District Sports Hostel Koppal : Tender Amount (In,Rs) : **58,50,000=00** EMD Amount (In Rs) : **Rs.1,17,000=00 (2)** Tender Application Starting **Date : 19.06.2026 Time: 12:00 PM (3)** Tender Application Submission Of Last **Date : 08.07.2026 Evening 4:00 PM (4)** Opening Of Technical Bid **Date: 10.07.2026 Morning 11:00 AM (5)** Opening Of Financial Bid Will be Intimated

Sl. No	Particulars	Strength Of Sports Persons (Approx)	Maximum amount fixed per day for an athlete (in Rs.)	Total cost of food supply for an estimated 325 days per year (in Rs.)
1	5th to 10th Standard Sports Persons	80	225/-	58,50,000=00
	Total	80		58,50,000=00

Tenderers can Get and Uploaded the Details Web-address: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Additional Information May be Obtained during Office Hours at The above Mentioned Address.

Sd/-Assistant Director and Tender Inviting Authority Youth Empowerment and Sports Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/181/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27

Government of Karnataka.
(PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPTARTMENT)
Office of the Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division Bidar.

No: EE/PRED/BDR/TS-2/2026-27/385 Date: 20.06.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for 27 works approved under various schemes as per KW-01, 02, 03 & 04 in Two Cover System. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum **Rs. 4,15,820.42** (Rupees Four Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty and paise forty two only) & Maximum **Rs. 170,30,392.63** (Rupees One Crore Seventy Lakhs Thirty Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Two and paise sixty three only) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on **22.06.2026 to or before 16.00 hours up to 10.07.2026** Technical Bid will be opened on **13.07.2026 & Financial Bid will be opened on 16.07.2026 respectively.** Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.

(Work Indent No:- RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT26710/CALL-2, 26564/CALL-2, 26710/CALL-2, 26579, 26293/CALL-2, 26812, 27233, 27379, 27219, 27486, 26738/CALL-2, 26760/CALL-2, 27366, 26809, 26713, 26439/CALL-2, 26701/CALL-2, 26696/CALL-2, 26700/CALL-2, 26699/CALL-2, 26695/CALL-2, 26810, 26811, 27487, 26548/CALL-2, 27367 & 27368.

DIPR/Bidar/69/KSMC&A/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E.Division Bidar.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕನನೀಸ ಮತ್ತು ಒ.ಚ.ಮಂಡಳಿ,
ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ, ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಆವರಣ, ಸರ್.ಎಂ.ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ-580 001 ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 0836-2213836 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eedwdm@gmail.com

ದರ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಣವಿಹೊನ್ನಾಪುರ ಜಲಶುದ್ಧೀಕರಣ ಘಟಕ ಮತ್ತು ಧುಮ್ಮವಾಡ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ನೀರಸಾಗರ ಜಲಾಶಯದ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ ಬೇಳಿಸಿದ ಮಾವಿನ ಗಿಡಗಳ ಮಾವಿನ ಹಣ್ಣುಗಳ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದರ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 365 ದಿನಾಂಕ : **19/06/2026** ರಂತೆ **Sealed quotations** ಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Sl.No	Description	Qnty	Unit	Rate in Rs.	Rate in Words
1	Rate enquiry for mango hapus, Nati is invited by this office. Location: Kanavihonnapur village, Dhumwad village and Neersagar Dam premises. The minimum rates stated by the Department of agricultural marketing and Karnataka State agricultural marketing Board Dharwad are as below,				
	Sl no / Product / Minimum Rs/ Quintal / Maximum RS/ Quintal / Modal price Rs / Quintal: 1 Hapus Mango 14000 16000 15000; 2 Mango Nati 5000 8000 6000				
	Participants advised to visit the site before quoting the rates and also advised to quote the rate in accordance with the rates of Karnataka State agricultural marketing Board Dharwad				
1.1	Mango hapus	Quintal	1		
1.2	Mango Nati	Quintal	1		

(1) The rates quoted shall be inclusive of all taxes except GST. (2) The sealed envelopes containing quoted rates shall reach to this office on or before **25/06/2026** up to 5.30 PM. (3) Right to accept any quotation and to reject any or all the quotations rests with the Competent Authority

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು, ಕನನೀಸ ಮತ್ತು ಒಚ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/335/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27 ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು, ಕನನೀಸ ಮತ್ತು ಒಚಮಂಡಳಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

SHIFTING FORTUNES New Delhi's efforts to internationally isolate Islamabad falter

Pakistan's diplomatic revival poses challenge for India

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK

US President Donald Trump during a meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (centre) and Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White House, in Washington, DC. PTI FILE PHOTO

In June 2025, a multiparty parliamentary delegation travelled to Washington DC to press India's case against Pakistan's continued use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy. The delegation was one of seven dispatched by New Delhi to 32 countries and the European Union in the aftermath of the April 22, 2025, terrorist attack at Pahalgam and India's subsequent "Operation Sindoor" targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and territories occupied by Pakistan.

The outreach formed part of a broader effort to reinvigorate India's long-standing campaign to diplomatically isolate Pakistan. A year later, Pakistan found itself at the centre of a major diplomatic breakthrough. After US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a Memorandum of Understanding ending the conflict triggered by the Israel-US offensive against Iran, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif joined the agreement as a guarantor. Sharif and Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir, facilitated talks between Washington and Tehran, earning praise from Trump, China and the European Union.

The diplomatic breakthrough marked a remarkable reversal of fortunes for Islamabad – just a year after India sought to rally international opinion against Pakistan. Thanks to Trump, Islamabad appears to have outmanoeuvred New Delhi's campaign to isolate it on the global stage.

Immediate strategic considerations often outweigh reputational liabilities when major powers reassess their partnerships. Pakistan has repeatedly shown an ability to exploit geopolitical opportunities to restore its relevance, notwithstanding concerns about its support for terrorists. Its role in the US-backed anti-Soviet campaign in Afghanistan during the 1980s and, decades later, in facilitating US engagement with the Taliban during the withdrawal from Afghanistan, showed how broader strategic imperatives often eclipsed concerns over Islamabad's links with militants. The latest warming of ties with the US appears to follow a familiar pattern.

Situated at the crossroads of South Asia, West Asia and Central Asia, Pakistan occupies a strategic location that has often enabled it to retain relevance in the calculations of the US and other major powers despite persistent concerns over its conduct, particularly its reliance on terrorism as an instrument of statecraft. Geography has repeatedly allowed Pakistan to translate strategic utility into diplomatic influence.

Pakistan's use of terrorist groups as strategic assets has long concerned the US and other major powers. During Modi's White House meeting with Trump in February 2025, the two leaders urged Pakistan to bring the perpetrators of past terrorist attacks in India to justice and prevent its territory from being used for terrorism. Munir, however, handed Trump an early foreign-policy success. Pakistan arrested and handed over ISIS-K commander Mohammed Sharifullah, accused of involvement in the 2021 Abbey Gate bombing in Kabul that killed 13 US troops. Trump praised Islamabad, which seized the opportunity to rehabilitate its image despite criticism over its support for terrorism and the fact that al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden was found in Pakistan years after the 9/11 attacks.

After the Pahalgam attack, US urged India to exercise restraint instead of calling out Pakistan. New Delhi also rejected Trump's claims that he had mediated the May 10, 2025, India-Pakistan ceasefire, but Islamabad embraced the narrative. Trump subsequently deepened engagement with Pakistan. Pakistan's role in hosting the Iranian-American negotiations in April 2026 was, in the words of a US diplomat, its "finest hour in modern history". Trump's bonhomie with the civil-military leadership of Pakistan added to the stress in India-US ties, in addition to his tariff tirade against India and his attempts to force India to stop buying crude oil from Russia. Pakistan also signed a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia, fuelling speculation about a larger role for it in West Asia's security architecture. The pact appeared to enjoy tacit US support. Islamabad strengthened ties with the EU and Russia, broadening its diplomatic options beyond its traditional partnership with China.

But it would be premature to view the current warming of US-Pakistan ties as the start of a durable strategic partnership. Trump's foreign policy has largely been guided by transactional considerations, with relationships calibrated to immediate objectives rather than long-term commitments. Pakistan's recent prominence in Washington DC owes much to its role in facilitating US negotiations with Iran and advancing US interests in West Asia. Once that role ceases to be relevant, the importance of Sharif and Munir to the White House could diminish just as quickly.

Even so, the lifespan of the partnership may matter less than its immediate consequences. A renewed infusion of US military or economic support into Pakistan would be a matter of concern for India. Equally worrisome would be any expansion of Islamabad's role in West Asia's security architecture, given the region's importance to India's energy security, commercial interests and vast expatriate community. New Delhi must also be mindful of a recurring pattern: periods in which Pakistan enjoys strong backing from the US and other major powers have often coincided with a greater willingness to adopt a more assertive posture towards India.

DH News Service

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Sudanese refugees perform traditional songs and dances during an event marking World Refugee Day at the Ura Refugee Site in Asosa Zone, Ethiopia, on Saturday. AFP

Indian man jailed in UK-France migrant smuggling case

▸ An Indian man who admitted smuggling migrants from the UK to France in the back of trucks has been jailed for more than five years by a court in south-east England, PTI reports from London.

Jaskirat Singh, 25, was prosecuted by the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) over his role in facilitating the illegal movement of non-British nationals between December 2024 and March 2026. Earlier this month, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to facilitate illegal immigration. Singh, who was sentenced by Canterbury Crown Court on Thursday, is believed to have earned around 185,000 pounds through the illegal operation. "The plot was exposed when 11 Indian nationals were found hiding in the trailer of a lorry stopped at Dover in December 2024. The information they provided, along with four other Indians found in a separate lorry travelling to France in January 2025, led authorities to Singh and his address in Wolverhampton," the CPS said. The CPS said an Immigration Enforcement-led investigation uncovered extensive incriminating material on Singh's mobile devices, including voice notes, images, messages and videos.

UK train crash kills 1, injures 9

▸ Nine people were in critical condition on Saturday after a collision between two passenger trains in central England the previous night, killing the driver of one of the locomotives, AP/PTI reports from London.

British Transport Police Chief Constable Lucy D'Orsi said more than 80 people were treated in hospitals after the crash late on Friday afternoon, and 28 remained hospitalised the following day. Buckingham Palace said King Charles III "is greatly saddened" by the crash. It said: "His thoughts and sympathies are with the family of the deceased and with all those injured or affected by such a tragic incident." Police and accident investigators are working to understand why a commuter train bound for London's St Pancras Station slammed into the back of another train headed for the same destination.

British transport officials inspect trains which crashed into each other in Bedford, England, on Saturday. AFP

Oz detects first case of H5 bird flu

▸ Scientists have detected the H5 strain of bird flu in Australia for the first time, the country's agriculture minister said on Saturday, meaning the highly contagious variant has now spread to every continent, AFP reports from Sydney.

Julie Collins told a press conference that the disease had been found in a migratory seabird, a brown skua, in remote Western Australia, with the result confirmed by the national science agency. Samples from another sick bird, a giant petrel found in the same area, had also shown a suspected positive result, she said. Australia was previously the only continent where the H5 strain, which can devastate poultry and wild bird populations, had not been detected.

4 top leaders of Imran's party jailed

▸ A Pakistan court on Saturday sentenced four senior leaders of jailed former premier Imran Khan's party to 10 years' imprisonment in a case related to the 2023 riots, while acquitting former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, PTI reports from Lahore.

Violent protests erupted across the country on May 9, 2023, following the arrest of former cricketer-turned-politician Khan. The protesters vandalised dozens of military installations and state-owned buildings. Former Punjab governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema, former Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, former Punjab minister Mian Mehmood-ur Rasheed, and former senator Ejaz Chaudhry were convicted for their role in attacking and burning police vehicles.

Modi is a tough cookie and great leader, says Trump

US President praises PM's leadership, longevity and ability to deliver results

WASHINGTON, PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Donald Trump in Evian-les-Bains, France. PTI FILE PHOTO

US President Donald Trump lavished praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing him as a "great leader" and a "tough guy" who has been in power for more than 12 years.

In an interview with Axios, Trump referred to China's President Xi Jinping and Modi as two of the leaders he most admired for their power, leverage and ability to execute decisions.

"I think Modi is very good. Yeah. They've had some very good numbers announced. He stays out of wars, which is smart. India has 1.5 billion people. India's actually the biggest. And Modi's a great leader," Trump said in response to a question about the leaders he most admired for their power, leverage and ability to deliver results.

Trump said the US does a lot of business with India, which earlier used to "rip us off". The US president also hailed Xi as a leader of great stature and confidence.

"If you were going to make a movie about either one of them, you wouldn't be able to find the man in Hollywood," Trump said. "Modi in a very different way. Just highly respected. I know the real Modi is a very tough cookie. I'll tell you, I got to know him some, and I didn't know him very well," Trump said.

Trump intensifies feud with Meloni over G7 photo dispute

US President Donald Trump escalated a diplomatic row with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Saturday, accusing her of repeatedly seeking a photograph, AFP reports from Washington. Trump told Italian broadcaster La7 that Meloni "begged" him for a picture at this week's G7 summit in France. Meloni denied the claim, calling it "made up", but Trump doubled down, saying she had asked "over and over" for a photo. He also accused her of trying to repair ties with Washington for domestic political reasons.

Zelenskyy returns Polish state honour

KYIV, REUTERS: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Saturday that he had returned a state decoration a day after Poland's president said he had stripped him of the award in connection with a dispute over events during World War II.

Polish President Karol Nawrocki said on Friday that he had revoked the medal awarded to Zelenskyy in 2023 after the Ukrainian president renamed a military unit in honour of Ukrainian insurgents from the World War Two period who are accused of massacring Poles.

The row over the role of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army threatens to deepen a diplomatic rift between the close strategic partners as Kyiv rallies allies to push Russia to end its war on Ukraine.

B'desh issues alert ahead of Awami League founding anniversary

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh on Saturday issued a nationwide security alert over possible unrest ahead of the founding anniversary of the now-disbanded Awami League, the party of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The party was disbanded by the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government after Hasina's government was toppled on August 5, 2024, following a violent student-led street protest dubbed the July Uprising.

"We have intelligence information that the Awami League may try to create unrest and instability in the country surrounding June 23," Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said while addressing a press conference. Law enforcement agencies have been directed to enforce maximum vigilance during the next few days and take all necessary measures to prevent any acts of sabotage, unrest or attempts to disrupt public order surrounding the occasion, he said.

Ahmed also said the government does not consider the Awami League a political party, but instead is treating it as a "mafia organisation".

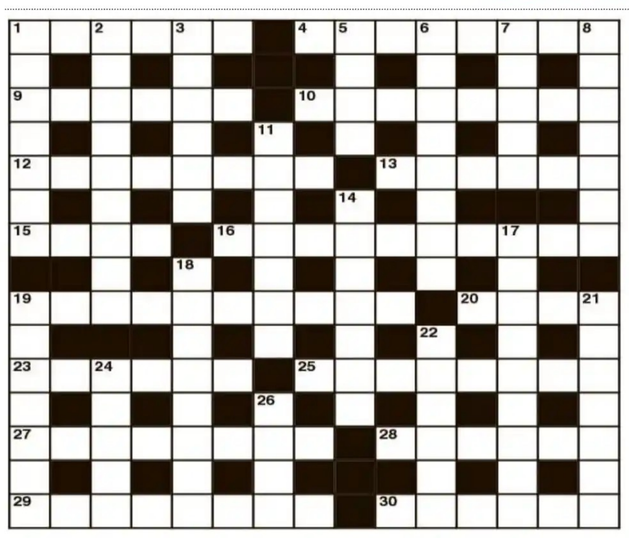
Earlier on Friday, in an internal communication to its field-level offices and units, police headquarters said leaders and activists belonging to the Awami League might try to hoist party flags at local offices and bring out processions carrying banners to mark its founding anniversary.

Bolivia declares emergency over blockades

LA PAZ (BOLIVIA), AP/PTI: President Rodrigo Paz on Saturday declared a state of emergency that gives the military powers to remove road blockades that have put a stranglehold on fuel and food supplies in the capital and other major cities.

A wave of protests over the last five weeks has called for Paz to step down over austerity measures imposed by the government, including the cancellation of fuel subsidies, and other issues. The demonstrations have unleashed violent confrontations between dynamite-wielding demonstrators and riot police, leading to at least 365 arrests and 37 injuries, according to authorities. "This is not a state of emergency to restrict people's lives. It is a state of emergency to give people back their freedom," the president said.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2685 ◆



ACROSS
1 Renowned (6)
4 Announce officially (8)
9 A gamebird (6)
10 A sovereign's daughter (8)
12 First-rate (3-5)
13 A card game (6)
15 Bankruptcy (4)
16 Having achieved one's aim (4,3,3)
19 Killjoy (3,7)
20 To barter (4)
23 Sanity (6)
25 Aggressively enterprising person (2-6)
27 In point of fact (8)
28 Saunter (6)
29 Amount of business done (8)
30 Lack of interest (6)

DOWN
1 Combat aircraft (7)
2 Debatable issue (4,5)
3 Outcome (6)
5 Underdone (4)
6 Face up to (8)
7 Correct errors in (5)
8 The upper hand (7)
11 Description (7)
14 Evolve (7)
17 Forgo (2,7)
18 Land of golden opportunity (2,6)
19 Justify (7)
21 A culinary herb (7)
22 Repressed (4-2)
24 In pursuit of (5)
26 Depressed (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4045

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 8, Des-tiny 9, Well-oiled 13, Aitch (h-ot) 14, No-is-e 15, Gremlin 16, Pre-sent 17, Start 18, A-is-le 20, Rated 22, Having 23, No-ugh-t 25, Con-sole 27, Par-ents 30, Too-too 31, Spring 32, Rider 35, Creak (creek) 36, Agree 37, Records 39, Letters 41, In-I-go 42, Cap-on 43, Hell to pay 44, See-king.
DOWN: 1, Set-tee 2, At the end 3, In a nut's-hell 4, Never a one 5, Flighty 6, Fixed abode 7, Well 10, H-amp-er 11, Miss-I've 12, In-vest 19, Sighted (cited) 21, T-wos-o-me 24, Danger money 26, Stock reply 28, App-rais-al 29, LIV-edin 30, Tackle 32, Rock cake 33, R-is-ing 34, Passion(-fruit) 38, R-op-ing 40, Tied.

EASY
ACROSS: 8, Bulldog 9, Audacious 13, Adieu 14, Tweed 15, Yoghurt 16, Nomadic 17, Pawns 18, Rebel 20, Tapir 22, Minder 23, Beamed 25, Cousins 27, Boorish 30, Denude 31, Karate 32, Bodes 35, Foxes 36, Unapt 37, Edifice 39, Ramadan 41, Among 42, Zebra 43, Millipede 44, Sternum.
DOWN: 1, Cubism 2, Flounder 3, Forthcoming 4, Sundowner 5, Calypso 6, Ginger beer 7, Zulu 10, Gannet 11, Serpent 12, Stolid 19, Bemused 21, Phoenix 24, Sovereignty 26, Side-saddle 28, Jacaranda 29, Bastion 30, Deform 32, Blizzard 33, Seesaw 34, Turnips 38, Imbrue 40, Maid.

SU DO KU X - 3953

		7						
	8	1			4		2	
2		4	8					9
1		9				7		4
		8						
			7			9	6	
3			1		2			
								7

SOLUTION TO 3952

9	5	4	1	6	2	8	7	3
2	8	3	5	7	4	6	9	1
6	7	1	3	9	8	4	2	5
5	2	6	4	1	7	3	8	9
3	4	8	9	2	6	5	1	7
7	1	9	8	5	3	2	6	4
8	9	5	6	4	1	7	3	2
4	6	2	7	3	9	1	5	8
1	3	7	2	8	5	9	4	6

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Brazil cruise past Haiti to re-ignite campaign

Cunha nets a brace as five-time champs offset an underwhelming start

PHILADELPHIA, AFP

Matheus Cunha scored twice as Brazil eased past Haiti 3-0 on Friday to breathe life into their World Cup campaign and close in on a spot in the last 32.

After a much-criticised display in their opening 1-1 draw with Morocco, the five-time world champions underlined the gulf in class with outsiders Haiti, who became the first country to exit this World Cup.

Cunha's scruffy goal in Philadelphia gave Brazil the lead midway through the first half, and he struck again as Carlo Ancelotti's side asserted their dominance. Vinicius Junior added a third before the break.

Brazil play Scotland in their final Group C game in Miami on June 24. The Selecao currently have the edge over Morocco for top spot on goal difference. If they finish first, they would face the Group F runners-up -- likely to be the Netherlands, Japan or Sweden -- in the next round.

Neymar did not travel with the squad as he continues his recovery from a calf injury, prompting Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva to joke he was "working remotely".

As promised Ancelotti made changes after the insipid showing against Morocco, bringing United forward Cunha in for Brentford's Igor Thiago and replacing Roger Ibanez with Danilo at right-back.

Despite a US government ban which has prevented fans travelling from Haiti, the Caribbean nation received loud support from the sizeable Haitian diaspora, which filled roughly half of the 68,324 crowd.

Aggrieved at not coming away with a point from their 1-0 loss to Scotland last week, Haiti coach Sebastien Migne urged his players to embrace the opportunity to play Brazil at a World Cup.

Brazil	Haiti
3	0

With 77 places separating the nations in the FIFA rankings, Brazil quickly took control and thought they had scored when Raphinha fired home, only for the Barcelona winger to be flagged offside. It was a sign of what was to come though and Brazil broke the deadlock on 23 minutes.

Cunha sparked the move by winning possession in midfield and, after Vinicius's shot was parried, he reacted quickest to block Hannes Delcroix's clearance to send the ball trickling into the net.

Vinicius and Cunha combined again to double the lead, the former slipping his team-mate in behind the Haiti defence to blast in a powerful left-footed shot as he fell to the ground. Brazil lost Raphinha to injury but scored a third before half-time as Vinicius ran onto Lucas Paqueta's floated pass and steered through the legs of Johny Placide.

Haiti almost bagged their first World Cup goal in 52 years when Ricardo Ade's glancing header at a corner forced Alisson Becker into a sharp stop, but it was a rare moment of hope.

Brazil's Matheus Cunha sets off for celebrations after scoring his team's first goal against Haiti in Philadelphia. AFP

Cunha shines in Ancelotti's new diamond set-up

PHILADELPHIA, REUTERS: Carlo Ancelotti did not solve all of Brazil's problems in one half against Haiti but he at least offered supporters a clearer idea of where this side might be heading after the frustration of their World Cup opener.

Brazil's 3-0 win came against a limited Haiti side who often pushed forward with little regard for the space they left behind, making life easier for a team searching for fluency, rhythm and short-passing combinations in the final third. However, after the 1-1 draw with Morocco in their Group C opener, Ancelotti made two changes which gave Brazil a sharper look.

The most significant was Matheus Cunha replacing Igor Thiago in attack, a move that brought balance, movement and a more natural connection between midfield and the front line. It also offered the first meaningful glimpse of Ancelotti's diamond midfield.

Lucas Paqueta, heavily criticised after struggling in the first half against Morocco, looked far more comfortable as the left-sided midfielder, supporting Vinicius Jr and combining neatly with Cunha. Paqueta was involved and alert, Cunha's movement was tireless, and Vinicius found more support than he has had for a long time in the national team, and it was no surprise Brazil's goals came from that side.

Drifting in from the left to link midfield and attack, Cunha had a natural chemistry with Vinicius and Paqueta that Brazil have lacked on that side since Neymar suffered serious injury.

The concern is on the opposite flank.

Raphinha failed to make an impact for the second match in a row and was substituted because of a physical issue.

Brazil's Matheus Cunha replaced Igor Thiago in the starting line-up to score a brace against Haiti. AFP

All it took was 71 seconds for a Moroccan win!

FOXBOROUGH (USA), AFP

Ismael Saibari scored the fastest goal of the World Cup so far after just 71 seconds as Morocco beat Scotland 1-0 on Friday to close in on a place in the knockout rounds.

Saibari scored in Morocco's opening 1-1 draw with Brazil last weekend and his clinical finish with just over a minute gone settled a hard-fought, physical contest watched by a crowd of 64,146 at the Gillette Stadium near Boston.

The 25-year-old, who was born in Spain and raised in Belgium, is reportedly on the brink of a 55 million-euro ($63m) transfer from Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven to Bayern Munich.

The quality of his strike past goalkeeper Angus Gunn showed why he is attracting such interest, and it was telling that Scotland lacked the same quality in the opposition box -- that helps explain why Morocco are ranked fifth in the world, and Scotland 40th. With four points from two games, Morocco are now primed to advance to the last 32 as they aim to at least match their historic run to the semi-finals in Qatar in 2022.

However, it was a sobering evening for Scotland and their army of fans who have taken over Boston during this World Cup, as their team never really tested Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou. The laboured 1-0 win over Haiti in their opening game at the same stadium last weekend -- which was their first victory at a World Cup since 1990 -- gave them a platform to build on and reason to believe they can progress beyond the group stage at a World Cup for the very first time.

Another win here would have secured progress from Group C, but their chances of going further remain up in the air going into their next match against Brazil in Miami next Wednesday.

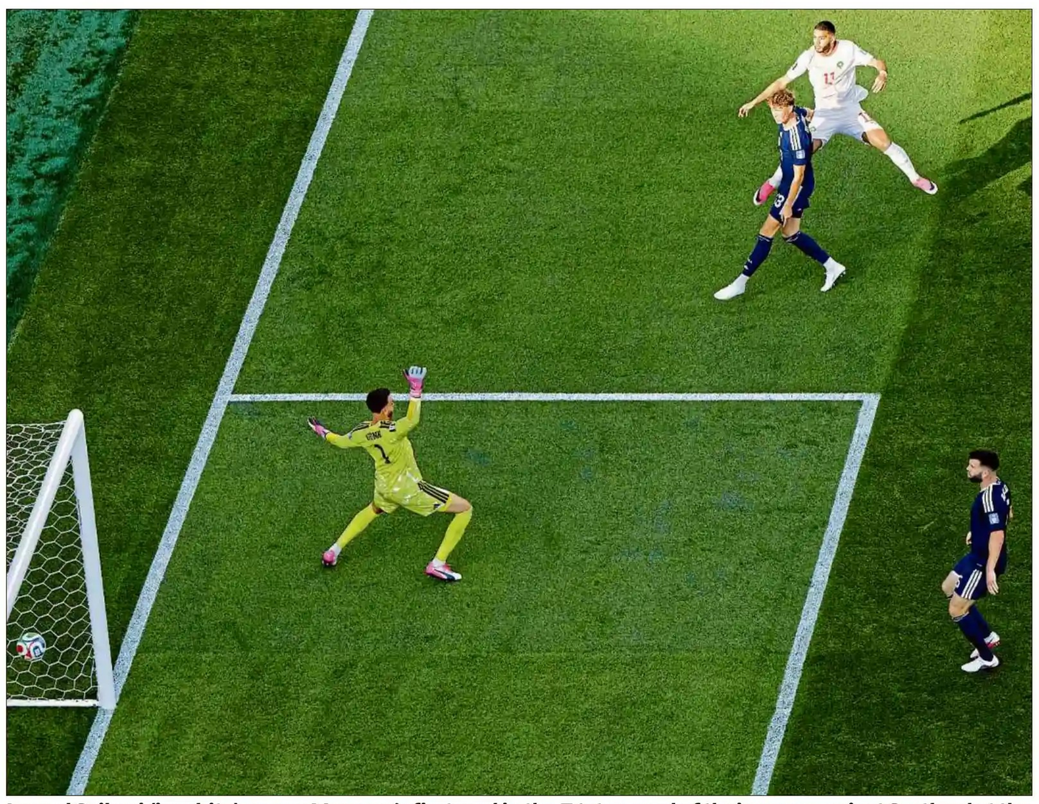
Morocco	Scotland
1	0

Morocco, whose captain Achraf Hakimi started hours after it was confirmed he must stand trial in France on rape charges, face Haiti in Atlanta next

Moroccan coach Mohamed Ouahbi went with an unchanged starting line-up here following the Brazil clash, but opposite number Steve Clarke made three changes.

Clarke sought to reinforce his defence, meaning striker Lawrence Shankland dropped out as defender Kieran Tierney came into the side to make a back five.

But that was of little use as Morocco went ahead practically from kick-off. The assist came from Real Madrid's Brahim Diaz and Grant Hanley played Saibari onside as the latter latched onto the ball over the top, controlled and rifled high into the net. Morocco had defeated Scotland 3-0 when the teams met at the 1998 World Cup.



Ismael Saibari (in white) scores Morocco's first goal in the 71st second of their game against Scotland at the Boston Stadium on Friday in Foxborough, Massachusetts. AFP

Ismael Saibari

Striker Saibari: Seizing scoring chances in style

FOXBOROUGH (USA), REUTERS

Ismael Saibari had never played as Morocco's lead striker before the World Cup, but he has seized his chance in style, scoring twice at the tournament, including the winner against Scotland on Friday.

The PSV Eindhoven talisman, who also scored against Brazil in their Group C opener, was named man-of-the-match in their 1-0 win over the Scots as the North African side moved closer to the Round of 32.

Saibari's winner against Scotland, scored after 71 seconds, made him only the second African player after Egypt's Mohamed Salah to score in each of his first two World Cup appearances.

Much of Saibari's recent scoring surge has been driven by coach Mohamed Ouahbi, who moved him from the playmaker and winger roles he filled under former Morocco boss Walid Regragui into a central striking position.

The 25-year-old, who was named Eredivisie Player of the Year last season, scored just seven goals in his first 28 international appearances, but has netted four times in his last four matches.

Ouahbi has exploited Saibari's pace and ability to run in behind defences, as seen in his goal against Brazil when he raced into the box and delicately chipped goalkeeper Alisson.

'I'm going to score'

Saibari failed to score in his debut Eredivisie season with PSV, making 17 appearances in an injury-hit 2022-2023 campaign. However, the experience helped him develop greater composure in front of goal.

"At first, I was thinking, 'I must not miss.' Now I think, 'I'm going to score'," Saibari said in a 2023 interview on PSV's YouTube channel.

That progress was reflected in his numbers, as he scored 15 goals in 27 Eredivisie appearances last season to help PSV secure a third straight Dutch league title.

Saibari has spent much of his career adapting to new surroundings. Born in Terrassa, Spain, he moved to Belgium with his family at the age of six and progressed through local clubs before joining Anderlecht's academy in 2013.

Although his spell at Anderlecht lasted only two years, as he was released after a dip in form days before the start of a new season, it proved formative.

"It motivated me to work much harder," he later said.

Saibari was eligible to represent Spain, his country of birth, Belgium, where he holds citizenship, and Morocco through his family. Yet he never seriously considered playing for anyone other than the Atlas Lions.

"When you choose a national team, it has to come from the heart. It shouldn't be a strategic decision about where you'll have more chances," said Saibari.

"You represent an entire country, so you must play with your heart."

He also revealed that former Belgium coach Roberto Martinez tried to convince him to represent them, but he never reconsidered his commitment to Morocco.

Now Saibari is hoping to emulate Morocco's 2022 semi-final run, driven by the spirit within the squad.

"We all have the same goal, the same dream. Even off the pitch, we laugh together, talk together and work together. We're like a family," he said.

Spain hope to flip fortunes against Saudi Arabia

ATLANTA, AFP

Lamine Yamal is hard to avoid on the approach to Atlanta's futuristic stadium where adverts featuring the 18-year-old adorn the sides of giant skyscrapers, but it is on the pitch that Spain desperately need the Barcelona superstar.

The European champions flunked their opening test of the World Cup, drawing 0-0 against debutants Cape Verde, sparking doubts over their status as one of the pre-tournament favourites.

Yamal was kept in reserve until the final quarter as he is nursed back to full fitness from a hamstring injury that had kept him sidelined for nearly two months.

Even if it did not ultimately break the deadlock, his sheer presence immediately changed the game.

The majority of the 68,000 crowd in Atlanta that had come to see one of the game's biggest stars finally had something to get excited about.

Spain's pedestrian passing game also at last had an outlet to stretch the Cape Verde defence.

"Lamine is undoubtedly a special player. He has great ability to beat his man and disrupt the opposition's defensive shape," said Arsenal midfielder Mikel Merino.

"Given Lamine's quality, he can influence any game at any moment."

Yamal became a household name with his starring role as a 16-year-old when Spain swept all before them to win Euro 2024.

His blend of speed, skill and goal threat on the right was complimented by Nico Williams on the left wing.

Williams' own injury-disrupted season meant he only came off the bench against Cape Verde for the final few minutes plus stoppage time.

Without the direct ability of both to beat a man one against one, Spain regressed to the impotent side that has struggled on the World Cup stage since they lifted the trophy for the first time in 2010.

In the 16 years since, La Roja have won three of 12 World Cup games.

Moreover, they have completed 2,500 passes since they even scored a goal as their dominance of the ball counted for little against Japan and Morocco four years ago, and rarely troubled a Cape Verde side ranked 67 in the world.

De la Fuente has stressed the need not to panic.

Spain are unbeaten in 32 competitive games stretching back over three years.

"Don't have any doubt," Yamal wrote on social media despite the disappointment on his World Cup debut.

"We know this is a long competition and the objective is still far off. We will keep working and everything will work out how we want."

In a battle of forwards, Spain's Lamine Yamal (left) and Saudi Arabia's Salem Al-Dawsari will hope to outdo the other when their teams clash on Sunday. AFP

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

No Pulisic, no problem: US down Australia to earn bragging rights

Second straight win earns hosts a spot in knockout round

SEATTLE, REUTERS

Mauricio Pochettino's plan to take the long view to the United States men's national team's run at the 2026 World Cup proved wise on Friday.

The US coach kept star Christian Pulisic on the bench against Australia, and his side responded with a 2-0 win against the Socceroos at Seattle Stadium to secure the Americans a spot in the knockout round. And with Turkey losing to Paraguay, the Americans clinched the top spot in the group. The US faces Turkey on Thursday.

With Pulisic recovering from a calf injury suffered in the opening win over Paraguay, Pochettino opted to start Folarin Balogun and Ricardo Pepi up front. The pair put constant pressure on Australia, which struggled with the Americans' speed despite playing five defenders. It was Balogun who forced the issue with a run down the left wing in the 11th minute. His pass into the six-yard box was intended for Pepi but never reached its target. That's because Swansea City defender Cameron Burgess got in between, only to have the ball deflect him and past goalkeeper Patrick Beach.

"(Pochettino has) always given us different ideas to attack. So, to play with Pepi today wasn't a shock," said Balogun, who added that he did not know Pulisic's status until before the match. "It wasn't like a plan B before CP was out. It didn't feel like that to me.

"It just felt like another solution to win the game."

It was the second own goal the Americans have benefited from in as many matches and set the tone for the remainder of the day. The US added a second goal when defender Alex Freeman headed a ball past Beach. Initially ruled offsides, the call was overturned by VAR.

Alex Freeman

Despite Pulisic being seen at team training on Wednesday, Pochettino said after the game that it was "impossible" for him to play Friday. While saying earlier in the week that Pulisic would face Turkey if he wasn't able to play against Australia, after the match he offered only that he hopes Pulisic can "help the team as soon as possible."

US 2 Australia 0

For Balogun, Friday continued a torrid start to the World Cup, which began with two goals against Paraguay. He also helped force an own goal in that game, making the United States the first team in World Cup history to benefit from own goals in consecutive games.

Freeman's third international goal came just a few minutes after he and Australian midfielder Paul Okon-Engstler were tended to after colliding heads. The son of former NFL wide receiver Antonio Freeman, who once scored a touchdown in the same stadium, Alex Freeman admitted he was anxious awaiting the VAR. "When it was a goal, I looked back and I saw all my teammates running at me," Freeman said. "I was like, 'Oh Lord, now they're running.' And then, I ended up running and celebrating."

Alex Freeman (second from right) of the US heads in their second goal against Australia during a Group D match in Seattle on Friday. REUTERS

No hiding from new 'mouth-covering' rule

Paraguay's Miguel Almiron claimed an unwanted piece of football history on Friday after becoming the first player to be sent off for covering his mouth during an on-field confrontation under new FIFA rules, reports AFP from Santa Clara, USA.

Former Newcastle player Almiron was given his marching orders in first half stoppage time after covering his mouth while he appeared to direct a comment at Turkey's Mert Muldur during the Group D game. Ten-man Paraguay beat Turkey 1-0.

Japan vs Tunisia is 1,000th World Cup tie

Japan and Tunisia will meet on Saturday in the 1,000th football World Cup match, FIFA said, with the Group F game at Monterrey Stadium serving as each side's second fixture at the expanded 48-team tournament, reports Reuters from New York.

A record 209 teams began qualifying for this tournament, compared with 13 entrants at the first World Cup in 1930.

"Being able to take part in the 1,000th World Cup match is truly symbolic," said Tunisia midfielder and captain Ellyes Skhiri.

Freeman follows NFL father's footsteps

Alex Freeman said scoring a World Cup goal for the USA in Seattle, where his father once scored two touchdowns for the Green Bay Packers, was a "full circle family moment".

Emulating his NFL wide receiver dad, Freeman was the first to the ball when Sergino Dest's effort looped into the air, heading past Australia's 'keeper for the second goa. He follows in the footsteps of father Antonio, who most famously caught a touchdown in the Green Bay Packers' Super Bowl XXXI win in 1997.

Neymar working remotely at WC, jokes Brazil president Lula

Brazilian star Neymar is "the first player in the world to be called up to the national side and be working remotely", Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva joked on Friday.

Neymar, Brazil's record goalscorer with 79 goals, only returned to training with the squad at the World Cup in the United States this week after recovering from a calf injury.

"Neymar? He is not even playing!" Lula replied to a young boy when he mentioned Neymar's name. "Neymar is the first player to be called up (to the national team) who is working remotely," added the 80-year-old, who was speaking during a ceremony at a hospital in the southeast city of Belo Horizonte.

Vozinha's mum lands in USA

Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha's remarkable World Cup story took another emotional turn on Friday when his mother arrived in Miami after receiving a US visa, allowing her to watch her son's team face Uruguay on Sunday, reports Reuters from Miami.

Ana Candida Evora travelled from Cape Verde's capital Praia after the US State Department provided her with a visa following Vozinha's tearful comments after the tournament debutants' shock 0-0 draw with Spain, in which the 40-year-old was named Player of the Match for his superb performance.

Madrid fan zone cancelled

The World Cup has brought plenty of concern over weather conditions, but while Spain will play Saudi Arabia in an air-conditioned stadium, a fan zone in Madrid has been cancelled due to the high temperatures forecast, reports Reuters.

The Spanish football federation (RFEF) turned Plaza de Colon in the capital city into a large meeting point for fans, called Plaza Seleccion. Huge crowds turned out to watch Spain's draw with Cape Verde on Monday but Sunday's event will not go ahead, with temperatures of up to 39 degrees Celsius (102.2 degrees Fahrenheit) expected

Crunch time for Belgium, Iran

LOS ANGELES, REUTERS

Belgium will look to kick-start their World Cup campaign against Iran in a pivotal Group G clash at Los Angeles Stadium on Sunday, with all four teams deadlocked on one point apiece.

The Red Devils were held to a disappointing 1-1 draw by Egypt in their opener after a sluggish performance.

Belgium fell behind in the first half before the country's all-time leading scorer Romelu Lukaku came off the bench to inject urgency into the attack and help force an equaliser through an Egyptian own goal after the break.

Belgium are seeking to banish the memory of their 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where they were eliminated in the group stage despite arriving as one of the tournament favourites.

They are expected to take a more aggressive approach against Iran, led by veteran midfielder Kevin De Bruyne, exciting winger Jeremy Doku and towering goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

Iran, meanwhile, will need to tighten up defensively after being held to a 2-2 draw by New Zealand, when Elijah Just and Chris Wood repeatedly troubled the Iranian back line.

Iran will look to captain Mehdi Taremi, along with Ramin Rezaeian and Mohammad Mohebi, who scored against New Zealand, to provide the attacking threat against Belgium.

If Belgium or Iran earn at least four points from their next two games they will be guaranteed a place in the Round of 32 as either group winners or runners-up.

Iran are also dealing with unusual logistical challenges at the tournament, having moved their base camp from Arizona to tournament co-hosts Mexico before the start of the finals amid the US-Iran war.

That has forced the squad to travel internationally for each of their three group-stage matches in the US. They would face the same challenge for the rest of the tournament should they advance and play matches in the US. Iran lodged a complaint with world soccer's governing body FIFA on Friday over travel restrictions facing the team in the United States. US authorities require the squad to enter the country within 24 hours of a match and leave the same day, prompting Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei to describe Iran as the "most oppressed" team at the tournament.

Belgium's Kevin De Bruyne (centre) shares a light moment with his team-mates during a training session ahead of the key game against Iran. REUTERS

Paraguay survive by the skin of their teeth

SANTA CLARA (US), REUTERS

Ten-man Paraguay scored the fastest goal of the World Cup so far to beat Turkey 1-0 in a dramatic Group D match on Friday, breathing life into their campaign and condemning their opponents to an early exit.

Fired up from a humiliating 4-1 defeat by the United States in their opening match, Paraguay went ahead 64 seconds in when Matias Galarza rifled home from long range, then clung on for the entire game against a torrent of Turkish attacks.

Paraguay defended doggedly and played the second half with 10 men after Miguel Almiron was sent off for remarks made to Mert Muldur with his hand covering his mouth.

Paraguay 1 Turkey 0

Goalscorer Galarza, who was left out of Paraguay's opening match, said he was enjoying one of the best days of his life. "We showed our quality fighting spirit even with one player down," he said.

Paraguay's Matias Galarza (centre) celebrates with team-mates after scoring against Turkey on Friday. AP/PTI

Lion-hearted Cape Verde test for big boys Uruguay

TAMPA (FLORIDA), REUTERS

Young gun Sidny Lopes Cabral is happy for Cape Verde to be cast as underdogs again in their second World Cup match against Uruguay at the weekend but thinks many in the football world have underestimated the quality in the team.

Cabral started at left back as the Blue Sharks stunned the footballing world by holding former world champions Spain goalless on their World Cup debut in Atlanta on Monday.

The confident 23-year-old, who was recently sold by Benfica to Trabzonspor, was quick to refute the idea that the result might give Cape Verde a glimmer of hope of passage to the knockout stage.

"Not hope," he told reporters at Cape Verde's training camp on Friday.

"Before we came here, we had the goal. The goal is to go through the group phase. So this game gave us more power, more trust in ourselves.

"We know our qualities and we know what we do."

Asked if people had underestimated Cape Verde, Cabral wasted few words: "Yes, 100%."

Cabral played only a handful of games for Benfica this year after his move to the Portuguese side last December, but two of them were against Real Madrid in the Champions League.

The Dutch-born defender will reacquaint himself with Real playmaker Federico Valverde when Cape Verde take on Uruguay in Miami on Sunday and Cabral is perfectly content that he will again be expected to lose.

"For me personally, I like to be the underdog because then I can show up more," he said.

"I know I think like the players that we have in our squad, they don't play in the Premier League or something.

"So we are all well prepared that people may think less of us."

Cape Verde coach Pedro Leitao Brito believes his team can pull off another surprise against Uruguay on Sunday. AFP

Midfielder Telmo Arcanjo, who has just turned 24, played considerably more games in Portugal's top flight for his club Vitoria this year and was slightly less bullish than Cabral when assessing the impact of the Spain draw.

"It was a historic moment because it was the first time we'd played in the World Cup, and our very first match was against Spain, a team that is a strong contender," he said.

"We hope to keep going like this."

Valverde is not the only top-class player in the Uruguay team and Portugal-born Arcanjo is expecting a tough tussle at Miami Stadium.

On Sunday

Tunisia vs **Japan** (9:30 am)
Spain vs **Saudi Arabia** (9:30 pm)

On Monday

Belgium vs **Iran** (12:30 am)
Uruguay vs **Cape Verde** (3:30 am)
New Zealand vs **Egypt** (6:30 am)

All timings in IST

Algeria file complaint

PARIS, AFP: Algeria have lodged a complaint with FIFA over "refereeing injustice" in their opening World Cup loss to Argentina, particularly a tackle by Lionel Messi, an Algerian football federation source told AFP on Friday.

Messi caught Algeria defender Aissa Mandi on the calf with a studs-up challenge from behind in the 30th minute of Tuesday's match but was not booked.

CLOSING THE GAP No freebies on offer for traditional European and South American powerhouses in group stages

Football underdogs are not waiting

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The FIFA World Cup's opening round is barely done and already Cristiano Ronaldo finds himself under the scanner. At 41, his every touch is audited and every missed chance is magnified. Against DR Congo, considered a 'rank outsider', he managed just three shots and 25 touches; numbers that quickly turned into social media fodder. It felt harsh but also inevitable as narratives shift quickly from aura to output when legends age.

Son Heung-Min is leading South Korea's charge at the FIFA World Cup for the fourth time. AP/PTI

At first glance, you can understand the reaction as DR Congo (once Zaire) had returned to the World Cup after 52 years, carrying the baggage of a painful 1974 outing. Back then, they left without a point, conceded 14 goals, and suffered a 0-9 thrashing at the hands of now non-existent Yugoslavia. With that history, they were expected to be little more than a footnote against a Portugal side stacked with global superstars. A side far more than Ronaldo — with names like Bernardo Silva, Bruno Fernandes and Vitinha forming a formidable core. And yet this wasn't a mismatch in the way many expected.

Under Frenchman Sebastien Desabre, Congo are not a romantic underdog story but a carefully assembled, modern footballing unit as one need to scratch beneath the surface to unravel the truth.

Their squad composition shows a heavy European imprint, especially from elite leagues. West Ham's Aaron Wan-Bissaka anchored the backline alongside Burnley's Axel Tuanzebe while Newcastle's Yoane Wissa leads the attack to etch his name in history by scoring their first-ever World Cup goal.

Real Betis veteran Cedric Bakambu, Ligue I's Chancel Mbemba and midfielders like Noah Sadiki and Edo Kayembe only shape them into a top-tier footballing environment. Surely not equals to Portugal but certainly not pushovers either. And that's been the theme of this World Cup.

Cape Verde holding Spain to a frustrating draw, Egypt pushing Belgium to the brink before a late equaliser, Australia tactically outclassing Turkey; these can't be isolated upsets. These teams are products of footballing ecosystems that extend beyond their borders, justifying FIFA's expansion to 48 teams. As Zee5's expert Paul Masefield neatly put it, the gap hasn't closed overnight, it's been shrinking quietly for years.

"It's all down to development... grassroots, better coaching, nutrition, fitness," the former footballer-turned TV pundit tells DHoS. "The gap used to be massive, now it's getting smaller and smaller. A lot of it now is identifying players abroad, bringing in those with heritage ties, and combining that with proper development. The gap used to be huge, but now it's closing because these countries are doing things smarter."

Asian powerhouse Japan are no longer in the shadows of their European rivals as they push for a deeper run. AFP

Countries like DR Congo and Cape Verde are good examples, with a large chunk of their squads born and trained elsewhere. For Congo, a major chunk of their players have foreign birthplaces (France, Belgium, England) before switching allegiance. Wissa, Wan-Bissaka, Arthur Masuaku, Gael Kakuta are all products of European systems.

The point will be incomplete without Morocco, who showed the blueprint more vividly than anyone. Over 70 per cent of their squad in the last World Cup was foreign-born and was part of a project that started 15 years before. The outcome a deep run to the semifinals beating giants like Spain, Portugal and Belgium on the way. Experienced Scottish coach Pradhyum Reddy sees that model as less about shortcuts and more about alignment.

"Diaspora players help, no doubt, but they only work if the system knows how to use them," says the 50-year-old Indian origin man. "Morocco didn't just pick players, they built a structure where those players could thrive. That's the difference."

As per Pradhyum, identity isn't diluted by foreign-born talent; it's strengthened when there's clarity in how the team wants to play. India, too, has flirted with this idea.

During former head coach Igor Stimac's tenure, there was a push from the Croat to tap into overseas talent but nationality laws around dual citizenship stalled that momentum. Recent discussions hint at a possible shift, though any tangible change remains some distance away. Even if it happens, diaspora talent is a boost, not a cure.

The heavier lifting still lies in building a robust domestic system that feeds the national team consistently. That's where Japan, South Korea and Australia stand apart.

Their rise has been decades in the making through structured leagues and youth development, leading to a steady pipeline to European football. Earlier, their World Cup appearances were about resilience; absorbing pressure, hoping for moments but now they look like teams that expect to compete. And the talent reflects that evolution.

Japan boast players like Takefusa Kubo (Real Sociedad), Ritsu Doan (Eintracht Frankfurt), and Ayase Ueda (Feyenoord). South Korea continue to lean on Son Heung-min, supported by Kim Min-jae (Bayern Munich) and Lee Kang-in (PSG). Australia's spine includes Mathew Ryan, Harry Souttar, and emerging talents like Nestory Irankunda. These names aren't just fringe players but are integral parts of serious European setups. The results are beginning to match the pedigree as well.

Japan clawing back twice against the Netherlands, Australia tactically dismantling Turkey, South Korea rallying past Czechia to show these weren't smash-and-grab jobs. They were performances built on familiarity with high-level football, understanding of opposition, and a belief that they belong at this stage.

There's no longer that visible inferiority complex as they engage, impose, and even dominate some of the traditional names. Still, it would be premature to declare a complete power shift.

One round, however exciting, doesn't rewrite history as consistency is the real test. The traditional giants still possess depth, experience and the ability to peak when it matters most. Stimac, back in India as an expert on Zee5's panel, was quick to temper any such excitement.

"It's too early to make conclusions after the first round. One game means nothing. Football is about confirming quality from game to game. It's nice to see teams like Congo or Cape Verde perform well, it really is good for football, but repeating at that level, that's what matters. Let's wait for the group stage to finish before we start praising anyone too much."

It's a reminder that World Cups are marathons disguised as sprints, which means early surprises often fade unless backed by sustained performances. Reigning double Asian champion Qatar's 0-6 humiliation after fighting Switzerland 1-1 to a draw is the noteworthy point in this case. However, it's important to understand that different teams have taken different routes to get here.

A Japan's century-long vision contrasts sharply with the Middle East's investment-heavy approach. Saudi Arabia's league boom and Qatar's naturalisation policies — bringing in players like Pedro Miguel (Portugal), Lucas Mendes (Brazil), and others — have accelerated growth but not necessarily maturity. Even strong and considerably new youth systems such as Qatar's Aspire Academy take time to translate into consistent senior success.

As Stimac bluntly put it: "You can't buy that journey. Look at Japan, Korea, Australia, they are decades of structured work, proper systems, good coaching. People think money can fast-track it but it doesn't work like that. You cannot replace that kind of process."

It's why some teams look ready to compete over a tournament while others still fluctuate between promise and vulnerability. In many ways, their current moment mirrors where Japan and Korea stood a decade ago; competitive, improving but not quite there yet. The difference now is that the gap is visibly narrower and teams aren't waiting for validation anymore.

DR Congo's Aaron Wan-Bissaka (foreground) is among the diaspora players who were developed in the elite leagues of Europe. AFP

Alfonsine wins Chief Justice's Cup

BENGALURU RESULTS

S John-trained Alfonsine, ridden by Ashhad Asbar, won the Chief Justice's Cup over 1800 metres, the feature event of the races here on Saturday.

1. The Pronto Pronto Plate - 1600M: Black Irish (Francis Arun Kumar) Pavan 1, Asterion (Vivek G) 2, Incredible Luck (Yash Narredu) 3, Digital Empress (Antony Raj) 4. WB: Hd, 3, 1 1/4. T: 1:37.68. Tote: Rs 18 (w) 12, 21 p; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 30; Fc: Rs 101; Q: Rs 53; Tri: Rs 243 & 127; Exp: Rs 553 & 128. TB: I Ghatala. Fav: Black Irish.

2. The Borsalino Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Prince Of Wales (Rapar's Galloping and Rajendran) Antony Raj 1, Alamgir (Alex Rozario) 2, Exceed (Hindu Singh) 3, Corinthian (A Sandesh) 4. WB: 5 3/4, Lnk, Nose. T: 1:24.66. Tote: Rs 22 (w) 12, 13, 16p; Shp: Rs 39; Thp: Rs 44; Fc: Rs 86; Q: Rs 67; Tri: Rs 402 & 170; Exp: Rs 2547 & 1559. TB: P Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Prince Of Wales.

3. The Paddiwick Plate - 1600M: Stella Maris (Pavan) 1, Honeypot (Rajesh Kumar) 2, Sea Diamond (Md Ashraf Reza) 3, Art Of Romance (Kiran Rai) 4. WB: 2, 3/4, 1 1/4. T: 1:40.08. Tote: Rs 14 (w) 11, 29, 14 p; Shp: Rs 83; Thp: Rs 32; Fc: Rs 204; Q: Rs 155; Tri: Rs 659 & 245; Exp: Rs 1466 & 523. TB: Stella Maris. Fav: I Ghatala.

4. The D. Kumar Siddanna Memorial Cup - 1400M: Shutterfly (Poonawalla Racing, Zavaray S Poonawalla, Behroze, Yohan, Michelle, Simone Poonawalla family and Rishad N Pandole) A Sandesh 1, Royal Legacy (Suraj Narredu) 2, Size The Grey (Saqlain 3), Edison (Vivek G) 4. WB: 1/2, 3, 1/2. T: 1:25.73. Tote: Rs 22 (w) 11, 11, 15 p; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 39; Fc: Rs 66; Q: Rs 20; Tri: Rs 164 & 83; Exp: Rs 235 & 101. TB: S S Attaollahi. Fav: Royal Legacy.

5. The Chief Justice's Cup - 1800M: Alfonsine (P Arun Kumar) Ashhad Asbar 1, Mayne Magic (Antony Raj) 2, Miracle Star (Suraj Narredu) 3, King's Gambit (Yash Narredu) 4. WB: 2 1/2, 1 1/4, 3/4. T: 1:49.98. Tote: Rs 41 (w) 13, 18, 12 p; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 48; Fc: Rs 722; Q: Rs 157; Tri: Rs 905 & 187; Exp: Rs 1978 & 847. TB: S John. Miracle Star.

6. The Prabalo Plate - 1200M: Bright Thunder (Manjri Horse Breeders and Aditya Thackersey and Rajan Aggarwal) Akshay Kumar 1, Windcleaver (A Sandesh) 2, Inicio (Vishal Bunde) 3, Brave Heart (V Shinde) 4. WB: 6 1/4, 1 1/4, Lnk . T:1:13.66. Tote: Rs 15 (w) 11, 13, 17 p; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 40; Fc: Rs 40; Q: Rs 36; Tri: Rs 180 & 104; Exp: Rs 1877 & 389. TB: D Byramji Fav: Bright Thunder.

7. The Borsalino Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Glorious Strides (Daulat Chhabria, Teja Gollapudi and Ashok Ranpise) Neeraj Rawal 1, Eagle Eye (S Sachin) 2, Night Raider Arvind Kumar) 3, Sicyon (Yash Narredu) 4. WB: Hd, 1)2, 2 1/2. T: 1:26.48. Tote: Rs 96 (w) 27, 13, 22 p; Shp: Rs 30 ; Thp: Rs 52 ; Fc: Rs 274 ; Q: Rs 209 ; Tri: Rs 2116 & 514 ; Exp: Rs 11516 & 3290.
TB: S Narredu. Fav: Eagle Eye.
Jackpot: Rs 4590 & 150. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 2929. **I Treble:** Rs 116. **II Treble:** Rs 1195.

Neeraj finishes fourth, SL's Rumesh claims another win

DOHA, PTI

Forced to delay the start of his season due to an injury, Indian javelin throw ace Neeraj Chopra finished a creditable fourth in the Doha Diamond League event here.

The 28-year-old Chopra produced a best of 85.69m in his third attempt which placed him fourth in the end in his season-opening event on Friday night.

Rising Sri Lankan star and world leader Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage won the title in the star-studded field with a throw of 88.68m, while two-time world champion Andersen Peters of Grenada was second with 86.38.

Neeraj was earlier provisionally named in the 32-member Indian team for the Glasgow CWG (July 23 to August 2). Chopra breached the 82.61m qualifying distance for the CWG.

American Curtis Thompson, who won a bronze in the Tokyo World Championships, was third with 85.99m.

Neeraj Chopra opened his season with a throw of 85.69m at the Doha Diamond League on Friday night.

Theerthesh, Poovamma bag Asian relays silver

Karnataka 400m runners Theertesh P Shetty and Poovamma MR combined in the 4x400m mixed event for a silver medal at the Asian Relays Championships in Shangyu, China on Saturday, reports DHNS.

The state duo, along with Bharath Sridhar and Neeru Pathak, clocked 3:17.06 behind Kazakhstan's 3:16.75. Meanwhile, India's 4x100m relay team, which included Karnataka's SS Sneha, settled for bronze at 41.47 behind Thailand (41.14) and China (41.29).

India thrash Chile to enter final against NZ

AUCKLAND, PTI: Navneet Kaur and Deepika struck a brace each in India's dominant 6-0 win over Chile that propelled the side to the final of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup here on Saturday.

Navneet Kaur (6th, 13th) and Deepika (14th, 18th) struck two goals apiece, while Neha (32nd) and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (39th) also found the target as India notched up their fourth successive win in the tournament.

Captain Salima Tete, who was named player of the match, had a key role in India's emphatic win with her all-round display. India will face hosts New Zealand in the title clash on Sunday after the hosts defeated United States 4-1 in shoot-off.

Men face Dutch

A mixed bag of a campaign so far, India would look to end the Dutch leg of the FIH Pro League on a high when they take on hosts Netherlands in the return leg here on Sunday.

Swimmers break records galore

BENGALURU, DHNS

Rujula S smashed the women's 50m freestyle national record as Karnataka swimmers broke several records on the fifth day of the National Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Rujula clocked 26.23 seconds to win the event while the women's 4x200m freestyle relay team — Dhinidhi Desinghu, Suhasini Ghosh, Shirin, Sri Charani Tumu — set the new meet record at 8:42.48.

The men's 4x100m freestyle team — comprising of Monish P V, Chintan Shetty, Aneesh S Gowda, Akash Mani — set the new meet record at 3:24.15.

Manikanta L grabbed Karnataka's fourth gold medal on the day by winning the men's 200m breaststroke final at 2:19.45. Karnataka won eight medals (including three silver and a bronze on the day), taking their overall gold medal tally to 17 and the total medal count to 38.

Results: Men: 50m Butterfly: B Benedicton Rohit (TN) 23.63, NMR, 1; Bikram Changmai (RSPB) 24.47, 2; Jananjoy Hazarika (Ass) 24.64, 3.
200m breaststroke: Manikanta L (Kar) 2:19.45, 1; Kunj Desai (Guj) 2:21.26, 2; Surya Jhoyappa (Kar) 2:22.31, 3.
800m freestyle: Aryan Nehra (Guj) 7:59.36, NMR, 1; Dharshan S (Kar) 8:09.79, 2; Kushagra Rawat (Del) 8:10.97, 3.
4x100m freestyle relay: Karnataka (Akash Mani, Chinthan S Shetty, Aneesh S Gowda, Monish PV) 3:24.15, NMR, 1; Tamil Nadu 3:25.76, 2; Maharashtra 3:27.82, 3.
Women: 50m freestyle: Rujula S (Kar) 26.23, NMR, 1; Charita P (Kar) 26.53, 2; Janhvi Choudhary (Ben) 26.57, 3.
200m breaststroke: Saanvi Deshwal (Mah) 2:37.81, 1; Thanya Shadakshari (Kar) 2:38.97, 2; Mannata Mishra 2:40.64, 3.
4x100m freestyle relay: Karnataka (Sri Charani Tumu, Shirin, Suhasini Ghosh, Dhinidhi Desinghu) 8:42.48, NMR, 1; Maharashtra 8:55.28, 2; Tamil Nadu 8:57.20, 3.

Rujula S

Goutham FC pip JBN FC via penalties

BENGALURU, DHNS: After the contest was tied 1-1 at the end of regulation time, Goutham FC scored a 5-4 victory through a penalty shootout over Jai Bharath Nagar FC in the pre-quarterfinal of the BDFA C Division football tournament here on Saturday.

Results: Pre-quarterfinals: Goutham FC: 1 (5) (S Nagaraj 46th) bt Jai Bharath Nagar FC: 1 (4) (Yashas DM 12th) via tie-breaker. **League stages: Group 9:** Reds United FC: 3 (Vishal Sujay Kumar 33rd, Ramdikhuamnna Ggonmei 39th, Dhruva Janardhana 60th) bt New Lucky star FC: 0; Active Union FC: 5 (Rohan Bhujel 6th, Topu Nada 19th, Muhamned Adhil TJ 20th, Abdul Muqtadir 32nd, Mohamned Affan Chand Basha 48th) bt ISRO FC: 0. **Group 14:** Bangalore Yellows FC: 1 (Dominc Niranjan 9th) drew with ECD FC: 1 (Venkatesh Gorwar 11th); Bentex FC: 3 (Muhmmed Ajsan KA 4th, Alan George 16th, Mohamned Anas 28th) bt Dharma Raja Union FC: 0. **Group 15:** Bangalore Phantom FC: 13 (Lumingtip Wanniang 11th, 19th, 22nd, 51st, Wgengbam Dishan Singh 5th, 13th, 16th, 18th, 34th, OnminLun Haokip 9th, HC Malsawmtlunga 42nd, Richardson Nongmaithem 46th, Leishangtgem Hemsowmeileie 49th) bt Cresent FC: 0.

D'Artagnan for main event

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

Pasi Shroff-trained D' Artagnan, to be ridden by Vivek G, is fancied to win the Zavaray S Poonawalla Colts Championship Stakes Grade-I, the feature event of the races on Sunday. The first race starts at 1.30 pm.

1. The Guindy Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Anzac Parade 1, Mega Success 2, Dr Colchester 3.
2. The Bergamot Plate (Div II) - 1100M: Aphelion 1, Magestic Persona 2, Cr Seven 3.
3. The International Day Of Yoga Plate - 1200M: Rizz 1, Osaka 2, Monstera 3.
4. The Noble Prince Plate - 1800M: Dardanus 1, Amazing Stride 2, Bartolino 3.
5. The Civil Service Cup - 2000M: Ice Of Fire 1, Prokofiev 2, Caccini 3.
6. The Zavaray S Poonawalla Colts Championship Stakes (Grade-I) - 1600M: D' Artagnan 1, Stud Poker 2, Knotty Emperor 3.
7. The Bergamo Plate (Div I) - 1100M: Hushed 1, Steffen 2, Supreme Success 3.
8. The Guindy Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Legendary Impact 1, My Solitaire 2, Golden Gallery 3.
Day's Best: Aphelion. **Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. **Mini Jackpot:** 5, 6, 7, 8. **I treble:** 2, 3, 5. **II treble:** 6, 7, 8.

Shlok hold nerve to lift title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shlok Hockey Club lifted the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship after overcoming Raichur District Hockey Association 5-4 in a shootout in the final here on Saturday.

Stephen Swami, Sachin and Kartik converted their penalties while goalkpeer Sujin Jarkula made crucial saves to win Shlok the title after the scores were level at 2-2 at full time. Stephen, who also won player of the tournament, also took the match into the shootout as he scored Shlok's late equaliser at the 59th minute after Mansrij Boro (43rd) and Karan Thosre (54th) gave Raichur the lead.

Meanwhile, KFD grabbed the third spot following a 6-5 shootout victory over Falcon Hockey Club after the scores were level at 2-2.

Results: Final: Shlok HC: 2 (Sandeep 14th, Stephen Swami 59th) bt Raichur DHA: 2 (Manasrij Boro 43rd, Karan Thosre 54th) via Shoot-out 5-4.
Third-place match: Karnataka Forest Department: 2 (Basavaraj 2nd, Dharsan 55th) bt Falcon HC:2 (Gautham Ganapathy 16th, Vivek 26th) via shootout 6-5.
Special Awards: Best goalkeeper: Sujin Jarkula (Shlok); **Best defender:** Ajay Naidu (Shlok); **Best midfielder:** Manish Choudhary (Raichur); **Best forward:** Goutham Ganapathy (Falcon); **Player of the competition:** Stephen Swami (Shlok).

Harshad claims a golden double

Winners at the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State U-19 and Senior-ranking badminton tournament pose with their spoils in Mandya on Saturday.

BENGALURU, DHNS

Harshad Shadish clinched a fine double, winning men's and boys' under-19 singles titles at the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State U-19 and Senior-ranking badminton tournament in Mandya on Saturday.

In the men's singles, after losing a gruelling first game to Laksh Changappa 20-22, Harshad claimed the next two games 21-17, 21-16 to wear the crown.

Results (all finals): Men's singles: Harshad Shadish bt Laksh Chengappa MA 20-22, 21-17, 21-16.
Doubles: Ashith Surya/ Vaibhav Vaibhav bt Kishal Ganapathy/ Prakash Raj S 21-13, 22-20.
Women's singles: Sameeksha HN bt Muskaan Khan 21-18, 10-21, 21-13. **Doubles**: Amrutha P/ Rashmi Ganesh bt Gloria Athavale/ Prerana Neeluri 21-15, 21-18.
Mixed doubles: Ashith Surya/ Amrutha P bt Vaibhav BS/ Karnika Sree 21-14, 21-14.
Boys singles (U-19): Harshad Shadish bt Hardik Divyansh 18-21, 21-13, 21-8.
Doubles: Mayukh DB/ Shreyas Chandra Shekar bt Amith Raj Natraj/ K Yadunandan 13-21, 21-19, 23-21.
Girls singles: Disha Santosh bt Aashi Das 21-18, 21-16. **Doubles**: Nidhi Atmaram/ Selvasamruddhi Selvaprabhu bt Raksha N/ Sai Akshara Sista 18-21, 21-15, 21-12.
Mixed doubles: K Yadunandan/ Sai Akshara Sista bt Amith Raj Natraj/ Suhina Roy 24-22, 14-21, 21-17.

NZ tighten grip on England

LONDON, AP: New Zealand was slowly but surely closing in on winning The Oval Test after reducing England to 182-5 on Saturday in a doubtful fourth-innings chase of 463.

England interim captain Joe Root was 75 not out at stumps on day four with debutant Jordan Cox beside him and yet to get off the mark.

But even with Root, Test cricket's second highest run-scorer in the middle, few gave England a chance of pulling off a miracle comeback. England came out after tea, already three wickets down for 54, to a spectator with a trumpet blowing the tune to "The Great Escape," the 1963 Steve McQueen war epic.

Brief scores: New Zealand: 391 & (O/n: 252/3) 362 all out in 87.1 overs (Henry Nicholls 121, Rachin Ravindra 76, Daryl Mitchell 68, Nathan Smith 38; Jofra Archer 3-62, Matthew Fisher 3-58, Josh Tongue 2-64) vs England: 291 & 182/5 in 48 overs (Joe Root 75 n.o., Harry Brook 58; Kyle Jamieson 3-37).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's T20 WC: West Indies vs Sri Lanka **(3 pm)**, South Africa vs India **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

2nd Test: New Zealand vs England **(Day 5, 3:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, SonyLIV.**

Tri-Nation Series: Sri Lanka A vs India A **(final, 10 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

3rd T20I: Bangladesh vs Australia **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Maharaja Trophy: Coastal Kings Mangaluru vs Hubli Tigers **(2:30 pm)**, Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters vs Shivamogga Yodhas **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

FOOTBALL

World Cup: Tunisia vs Japan **(9:30 am)**, Spain vs Saudi Arabia **(9:30 pm)**, Belgium vs Iran **(12:30 am, Monday)**, Uruguay vs Cape Verde **(3:30 am, Monday)**. **LIVE** on **Unite8 Sports, Zee5.**

HOCKEY

FIH Pro League: Netherlands vs India **(5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

GOLF

US Open: Day 4 **(8:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

ATP 500: The Queen's **(final, 2:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET THIRD ODI

India complete Afghan sweep

Prasidh, Jaiswal shine in thumping nine-wicket victory

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
CHENNAI, DHNS

An experimental India had not put a foot wrong over the last fortnight against Afghanistan, making the most of their rich reservoir of talent. While it was a trope the visitors would have hoped to change, it was again the recurring theme in the final ODI as India extinguished the little spark shown and completed a 3-0 whitewash.

After Prasidh Krishna's memorable day's work, producing a flawless display of fast bowling en route to a career-best five-for, Yashasvi Jaiswal's stroke-filled unbeaten hundred powered India to an authoritative nine-wicket win at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here.

Prasidh ended with figures of 5/23 in 8.2 overs -- his maiden ODI fifer -- as India skittled out Afghanistan for 218 in 44.2 overs. Chasing for a clean sweep, India kicked off at 5/0 after Hashmatullah Shahidi (102) was penalised for running on the pitch.

Jaiswal pounced on any hint of width and hit three boundaries against Azmatullah Omarzai (0/26) in the first over. The Afghans did not read the signs and kept feeding him loose balls and copped severe punishment.

Jaiswal then shifted to another gear as he flicked and pulled Fareed Ahmed (0/55) all over the park. He soon reached his fifty in 38 balls, batting with flair and intent in equal measure. On the other hand, Rohit Sharma (79), while not at his regal best, saw through a tricky period but took over in his inimitable manner when he hooked Ziaur Rahman (0/21) for six to find his groove.

Rohit unfurled some shots that made batting a fascinating viewing and reached his 95th fifty-plus score in ODIs in 47 balls with a sweep to fine leg.

The Rohit party eventually ended when he miscued a short delivery off Mohammed Nabi (1/47) to deep mid-wicket as the Mumbai duo stitched a 170-run first-wicket stand. Jaiswal's ambition to make a statement eventually led to a second ODI hundred with a six over extra cover while Shreyas Iyer (20 not out) helped him conclude the final rites in 28.4 overs.

Earlier, with the game played on a red-soil strip that offered considerable bounce, Indian quicks exploited the conditions well. Play and miss was a familiar feature as Gurnoor Brar (1/49) and Prasidh troubled the batters with movement off the surface.

Prasidh got the better of Rahmanullah Gurbaz's (5) previously fluent bat, then opened up and took Rahmat Shah's (5) leading edge to Rohit to have Afghanistan 26/2. He then kissed the outside edge off Ibrahim Zadran's (11). Darwish Rasooli's (1) strange call to play a calamitous shot when Afghanistan were tottering handed Prasidh his fourth of the spell.

India's Prasidh Krishna bagged his maiden ODI five-wicket haul in the final game against Afghanistan at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday. PTI

SCORE BOARD

AFGHANISTAN

Gurbaz c Rohit b Prasidh 5 (7b, 1x4)
Zadran c Rohit b Prasidh 11 (18b, 2x4)
Rahmat c Rohit b Prasidh 5 (15b, 1x4)
Shahidi c Shreyas b Prasidh 102 (131b, 13x4, 1x6)
Darwish c Shreyas b Prasidh 1 (5b)
Omarzai c Prasidh b Prince 50 (56b, 5x4, 2x6)
Nabi b Gurnoor 21 (23b, 1x4, 1x6)
Rashid c Prince b Harsh 5 (7b)
Ghazanfar (run out) Gill 1 (1b)
Fareed (run out) Gill 0 (0b)
Rahman (not out) 1 (7b)
Extras (LB-5, NB-4, W-7) 16
TOTAL (all out, 44.2 overs) 218

Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Gurbaz), 2-26 (Rahmat), 3-28 (Ibrahim), 4-36 (Darwish), 5-141 (Omarzai), 6-196 (Nabi), 7-205 (Rashid), 8-206 (Ghazanfar), 9-206 (Fareed)

Bowling: Gurnoon Brar 8-0-49-1, Prasidh Krishna 8.2-2-23-5, Prince Yadav 7-0-38-1, Nitish Kumar Reddy 6-0-42-0, Harsh Dubey 7-0-38-1, Washington Sundar 8-2-23-0

INDIA

Rohit c Atal b Nabi 79 (69b, 9x4, 3x6)
Jaiswal (not out) 110 (86b, 14x4, 3x6)
Shreyas (not out) 20 (19b, 2x6)
Extras (pen 5, W-6, LB-2, NB-2) ... 15
TOTAL (for 1 wkt, 28.4 overs)....224

Fall of wickets: 1-170 (Rohit).

Bowling: Azmatullah Omarzai 2-0-26-0, Ziaur Rahman 4-0-21-0, Fareed Ahmed 5-0-55-0, AM Ghazanfar 3-0-15-0, Rashid Khan 7-0-53-0, Mohammad Nabi 7.4-1-47-1

Result: India won by 9 wickets.

PoM: Prasidh Krishna. **PoS:** Shubman Gill. **Series:** India won the 3-match series 3-0.

India's winning charge faces Proteas test

MANCHESTER, PTI

India will look to build on their excellent start to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup when they take on a dangerous South Africa side in a Group 1 clash at Old Trafford here on Sunday.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side began their campaign with a commanding 64-run win over Pakistan, with opener Smriti Mandhana and wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh providing the batting impetus before Deepti Sharma produced a match-winning spell with a five-wicket haul.

India continued in the same vein against the Netherlands, beating them by a huge margin of 95 runs after an all-round show by the Asian heavyweights.

India, who are still chasing their maiden T20 World Cup title despite five semifinal appearances, will be keen to carry the momentum forward against a South African team known for their aggressive batting and quality bowling attack.

The contest could revolve around India's top order against South Africa's varied bowling attack.

Mandhana's ability to dominate the powerplay, coupled with the experience of Harmanpreet and the big-hitting prowess of Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh, will be crucial, while the Proteas will rely heavily on captain Laura Wolvaardt and their middle-order firepower to put pressure on the Indian bowlers.

Smriti Mandhana

LIVE 7 PM STAR SPORTS

With a two-wicket victory over Pakistan, South Africa bounced back after a tough outing against Australia, where they were bowled out for 107 while chasing 173.

Their batting unit will need to be more consistent against an Indian attack that gained confidence from their bowlers' exceptional performance in the team's first two outings.

The Manchester conditions could bring spinners into play, and India's ability to use their slow-bowling options effectively may prove decisive.

Shubhang stars for Blasters

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Blasters scored a thrilling six-wicket victory over Gulbarga Mystics in the opening match of the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament in Mysuru on Saturday.

Batting first, Gulbarga posted a challenging 201 in their 20 overs with contributions from Prakhar Chaturvedi, who scored a 38-ball 64, and Aarav Mahesh -- who added a 41-ball 63.

Captain Manish Pandey also chipped in with 19 runs while a 12-ball 20 by Thippa Reddy helped Gulbarga's total cross the 200 mark. Shubhang Hegde and Shreevathsa Acharya claimed two wickets each for 44 and 36 runs respectively for Bengaluru.

Brief scores: Gulbarga Mystics: 201/5 in 20 overs (Lochan Gowda 17, Prakhar Chaturvedi 64, Aarav Mahesh 63; Shubhang Hegde 2-44, Shreevathsa Acharya 2-36) lt to Bengaluru Blasters: 202/4 in 20 overs (Bhuvan Mohan Raju 56, Rohan Patil 31, Shubhang Hegde 36, Praveen Dubey 32 n.o.; Paras Gurbax Arya 2-34). **Result:** BB won by 6 wickets.

Matt Fitzpatrick. AFP

Clark stays ahead of hunting pack by four shots at US Open

SOUTHAMPTON, AFP: Wyndham Clark held off charges by fellow major winners Xander Schauffele, Matt Fitzpatrick and Collin Morikawa to seize a four-stroke lead in Friday's second round of the US Open at blustery Shinnecock.

Clark, the 2023 US Open winner, curled in a 33-foot birdie putt at the 18th hole to fire a one-under par 69 and stand on seven-under 133 for 36 holes.

"I had it on a good line and I almost really called it," Clark said of his last putt. "I'm glad it went in. It was a great way to finish the round."

Clark posted the lowest 36-hole US Open score ever at Shinnecock, his 133 one under the old mark by Phil Mickelson and Shigeki Maruyama from 2004.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLICE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the following properties are the subject matter of **O.S. No. 773/2026** pending before the court of **PRL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL** FR No : **O.S/778/2026**

By an Interim Order dated **April 09th 2026** passed in the said suit, the Hon'ble Court has restrained the defendants and/or any person claiming through them from alienating, transferring, selling, mortgaging, creating third-party interests, or otherwise encumbering the properties described below, pending disposal of the suit and/or until further orders of the Court.

PROPERTY DETAILS

1. Amogaya Adorit – by Amogaya Projects – Kattamanallur Old Madras Road, Survey number 46/9 & 46/10 (1 acre 20 guntas) Bangalore East taluk, Bidarahalli hobli, Huskuru village, Bangalore www.amogayaadorit.in

2. SLN Nidhi Palms – by SLN Projects Survey number 99/2, 99/6 & 99/7 (4 acres 31 guntas) Bangalore East taluk, Biidarahalli 2 Hobli, Baiyyappanahalli village, Bangalore www.slnnidhipalms.co.in

3. Survey number 46/6, 46/7 & 46/8 (28 guntas) Bangalore East taluk, Bidarahalli hobli, Huskuru village, Bangalore

Accordingly, all members of the public, Prospective purchasers, Investors, Financial institutions and any other interested persons are hereby cautioned not to enter into any transaction whatsoever in respect of the above properties.

Any person dealing with the aforesaid properties shall do so at their own risk, cost, and consequences, subject to the outcome of the said proceedings and the orders of the Hon'ble Court. Any attempt to alienate, transfer, or create third-party rights in violation of the Interim Order may attract appropriate legal proceedings and consequences under applicable law.

This notice is issued in the interest of safeguarding the rights of the parties and to inform the general public of the subsisting Interim Order of the Hon'ble Court.

Issued by: C Rudresh
Address & Ph : Pruksa Silvana, Ph - 99809 18985
Advocate's Name: M D Raghunath – Legal Axis
Date: 21-06-2026
Place: Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our clients Mr. Mohammed Shahid and Mrs. Reshma Shahid are intending to enter into an Sale Deed to purchase the Schedule Property, bearing No. 24, having Bangalore Central City Corporation E-katha bearing PID No.8054029557, situated at Richmond Town, Alfred Street, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 83 Feet and North to South 68.9 Feet in all measuring 5720 Square Feet, any person /s entitles having any claim, right, title or interest over the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner objecting the sale of the schedule property may lodge their claim with documentary proof with the undersigned within 14 days from the date of this Public Notice, after which our client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with the owner and any claim or objection received thereafter will not be binding over the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing No. 24, having Bangalore Central City Corporation E-Katha bearing PID No. 8054029557, including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and measuring East to West 83 Feet and North to South 68.9 Feet in all measuring 5720 Square Feet, together with all rights and appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:

East by: Alfred Street, West by: Property No. 18 and 18/1 and No. 17 and 17/1 Wellington Street, North by: Property No. 24/1, South by: Property No. 24/2 and 24/2-1.

Mohammed Shahid, 9886748621
Waquar Ahmed, 9916270005
BEENA. P. K, Advocate,
NEXTLEGAL SERVICES, #270/A, 4th Main 5th C Cross 80 Feet Road HAL 3rd Stage Indiranagar, Bangalore-560075
Mobile No.: 9972092077
19-06-2026 Bengaluru

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To, The Secretary & Correspondent, KAIRALEE NILAYAM INSTITUTIONS Vimanapura, (HAL), Bangalore-560017.
Mob: 9141654726, 080-25236608
E-mail: kksvimanapura@gmail.com

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INDIA BOOK OF RECORDS Advt.
Kumari **Mananee Neelakanta** of Rarajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka, studying in Sri Jnanakshi Vidyaniketan is titled as **'IBR Achiever'** for performing 5 advanced-level yoga poses, consisting of **Shivdhyanasana, Eka Pada Sirsasana, Kandasana, Chakra Garudasana and Baddhapada Parivritta Parshva Kandasana yoga poses, in 35.39 seconds,** at the age of **9 years and 10 months,** as confirmed on **April 20, 2026.** She is learning yogasana from **four years** under the guidance of **Sri Jnanakshi Vidyaniketan yoga teachers** and advance yoga from **Rajesh Achar** and **Bhavana G.**

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DHANALAKSHMI M,** W/o N.K. Mani, residing at No.106, 13th Cross, 11th Main, Kammagondanahalli, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru- 560015, have changed my name to **DHANALAKSHMI MANI** vide affidavit dated 19-06-2026 sworn before notary A. Manjula, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **DHANALAKSHMI MANI** only. (for all purposes.)

I, SMT Parvathamma W/o Sri. Venkatarama aged about 56 years, residing at No.68, 7th Ward, Ashwini Extension Chintamani Town Chikkaballapur District. I Have changed my name to Parvathamma Venkatarama vide affidavit dated 19.06.2026 before Notary Manjunatha Reddy Chintamani. Henceforth I shall be called as Parvathamma Venkatarama only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JYOTHI RAJENDRA KUMAR, P. JYOTHI** Residing at No.1423, 'Seema Sadan', Near Mutturayaswamy Temple, Prashanth Nagar, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560057 Declare that the above names pertain to me and henceforth I shall be known as **P. JYOTHI** vide affidavit dated 17.06.2026 before Notary V. Nagarajan, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRASANTA KUMAR BEHERA** Residing at No. B3-431, Disha Courtyard Apartment, Ganesh Temple Road, Vijaynagar, Whitefield, Bangalore- 560066, have changed my name to **PRASANTA KR BEHERA** vide affidavit dated 16.06.2026 before Notary B.V. Nagabhushana, Bangalore Henceforth I shall be known as **PRASANTA KR BEHERA** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANIL JOSHI** S/o Ramarao Joshi, residing at B314, Rainbow Waterfront Appartment, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru -560061, have changed my name to **ANIL RAMARAO JOSHI** vide affidavit dated 19/06/2026, sworn before notary L. Veena, Bengaluru. Reg -8696

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THIS AND THAT

The girl from Mohenjo-daro and our fashion anxieties

SR Ramakrishna
often sees high art in kitsch and vice versa

The story of how the NCERT authorities digitally covered the torso of a Mohenjo-daro-era dancing girl made for amusing news this week. The image with a bare torso dates back about 4,500 years and represents the artistic and metallurgical skills of ancient India. A picture of the girl appears in a Class 9 textbook on art. When art historians objected to what they saw as a violation of historical authenticity, the NCERT reverted to the original.

When bare bodies, celebrated in art in cultures across the world, cause offence today, we promptly place the blame on our colonial history. The Victorian era, we say, was so prudish that it even draped the legs of chairs. And so we explain to ourselves that the overdressed British embarrassed us into reviewing not just what we wore but also what our ancestors were represented as wearing. All of which points to the conflicted relationship we have with clothes and fashion.

Roland Barthes (1915-1980), the French philosopher, described fashion as a language. Like language, fashion works through representation. The meaning attached to a garment keeps changing with time and space. The *dhoti* can represent functionality, simplicity, tradition, and political power, while the miniskirt can represent liberation, rebellion, nostalgia, and decadence. No meaning is inherent to the garment. Meanings emerge from the system around it: media, politics, and the anxieties of looking modern or old-fashioned. What *Vogue* says about a garment will never be the same as what a magazine calling for a religious dress code would say about it. Time and space, referred to as *desha kaala*, play a big role in how we clothe ourselves.

As an omniscient presence in the Indian consciousness of the first few decades since Independence, Gandhi influenced our attitudes towards fashion. Khadi, the humble homespun garment, was supreme. It represented national pride, supported cottage industries, and underlined the virtues of austerity. The political message of khadi was that it challenged industrial capitalism and elite privilege. The contradiction surfaced with how this representation was used by politicians. They strutted about in khadi whites, even extending the colour to their footwear, and profited from the noble meanings Gandhi assigned to the fabric.

In reality, their lifestyles were never austere. They drove the biggest cars and lived in the poshest bungalows, while ordinary folks who wore coloured attire made from synthetic fibre lived a life of forced austerity. In a post-Gandhi scheme of things, khadi had the power to whitewash ill-gotten wealth. The Gandhian narrative also suited non-politicians who saw no point in personal grooming. In intellectual circles, spending time on clothes was regarded as frivolous. Unkempt was serious.

It is no secret that Gandhi was critical of Kalidasa's romantic oeuvre, with its sensuous descriptions. He believed such works distracted people from their spiritual pursuits. He preferred texts like the *Ramayana* and the *Bhagavad Gita*, which he believed held didactic value. This rejection of poetry was often reflected in how we shopped for clothes. Weddings called for a bit of glamour and decking up, but otherwise, much of India was indifferent to the 'seasons' that the fashion brands were marketing.

Things have changed, of course, and fashion marketing has triumphed on many fronts. A simple haircut that would cost a couple of hundreds costs 10 times as much if it is labelled 'bridal', and no one bats an eyelid. Tailoring has taken a beating when it comes to middle-class patronage, but the more affluent are splurging on bespoke. Affordable readymades are getting Indian sizes right, and people are refreshing their wardrobes more frequently, even as 'fast fashion' gets flak from environmental groups. Films usher in new trends, and fashion shows attract attention for the disproportionate number of reporters and content creators they attract.

Fashion is no longer a sin product. A story about Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, included in a textbook, describes how the Sanskrit scholar is turned away from an elite dinner because he is dressed in a simple white *kurta* and *dhoti*. The watchman assumes he is poor and unworthy of entry. Vidyasagar, well known for championing widow remarriage, returned after some time, wearing a suit and tie. Once inside, he started feeding his clothes, arguing the host had only honoured his attire. Fashion, Barthes propounded, is a system of signs, and not just fabric.

Meaning in fashion is created by opposition –summer vs winter, masculine vs feminine, and formal vs casual, and fashion magazines are the real producers of fashion. *The Devil Wears Prada* gives us a peek into the frenzied, obsessive world of fashion journalism, now taken over by social media influencers. So what does the dancing girl represent – a free spirit or a careless dresser who can do better? Or neither?

ILLUSIONS AND DELUSIONS

Guardrails for the digital marketplace

India's digital economy is growing faster than the European Union and the United States. It has already crossed $100 billion and is projected to touch $300 billion by 2030. More than 350 million Indians shop online, and digital payments – led by UPI – account for nearly three-quarters of e-commerce transactions. From groceries to investments, the digital marketplace has become part of our daily rhythm, placing India among the world's top five digital economies. However, we lack comparable regulatory standards.

In finance, regulators have been as proactive as their peers in Europe or the US. The Reserve Bank of India has deployed AI-driven fraud detection systems and strengthened cyber-resilience. India has banned all forms of online money gaming. SEBI has begun cracking down on misleading promotions by financial influencers. But the digital marketplace of the real sector – healthcare, transport, and retail – is not similarly well policed. Draft e-commerce guidelines issued in 2025 to tighten seller verification and curb manipulative practices remain unenacted, apparently due to strong pushback. Yet India's consumer story is robust, and new entrants will continue to arrive. We should not allow pressure from vested interests to dilute oversight, for consumer safety cannot be sacrificed at the altar of profiteering.

Healthcare shows this gap most starkly. Structural weaknesses – large numbers of unregistered firms, registered firms outside approved industrial zones, and stagnant numbers of inspectors relative to GDP growth – make oversight difficult. The chilling example of child deaths linked to contaminated cough syrups forced the government to ban over-the-counter sales of all cough syrups. At the same time, e-pharmacies are sprouting across India. Pure-play apps launched by unknown promoters, operating only digitally and popularising themselves through celebrity endorsements, have also begun appearing. Laws to hold endorsers and promoters accountable remain weak. If digital apps are serious about selling medicines, they should be required to maintain visibly adequate quality-checking teams, apart from well-staffed local offices in every city they serve.

The accountability gap extends beyond medicines. Ride-hailing apps such as Uber, Ola, and Rapido show the same problem. When a passenger faces overcharging, unsafe driving, or harassment, there is no local office to walk into, no counter to lodge a complaint. Redressal is routed through distant call centres or opaque in-app forms. Traditional taxi stands or auto unions, however imperfect, offered visible points of contact. If digital platforms are to replace them, they too should be required to maintain on-ground complaint avenues.

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The former chairman of the Export Import Bank of India is a banker with a theory of everything
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Meanwhile, lifestyle and e-commerce advertisements flood consumers with flash sales, scarcity cues, and urgency prompts. These techniques are not new, but digital platforms deploy them at scale, learning our habits and weaknesses. The EU bans manipulative design outright, and the US has cracked down on subscription traps. Indian consumers face these tactics with little protection, turning persuasion into surveillance.

Accountability cannot stop at the platform. The faces that front the advertisements – film stars, cricketers, influencers – must also be held to account. If the medicine is substandard or the financial scheme collapses, the consumer has been misled not only by the algorithm but also by the human face that vouched for it.

Though India's Consumer Protection Act, 2019, recognises "misleading endorsements", enforcement is rare. A sharper rule would make endorsers personally liable. Equally important, digital platforms that carry these advertisements must share responsibility.

There is also a larger dimension. We live in an era of global discord, where countries have weaponised access to the internet and developed technical abilities to disrupt it. Too much dependence on pure-play e-commerce can thus be harmful. Sensible regulations requiring on-ground presence and physical grievance mechanisms are not just about consumer protection; they are also about national resilience. A marketplace rooted in both digital convenience and physical accountability is harder to destabilise.

India does not need a ban but a framework of accountability: clear sponsorship disclosure, limits on behavioural targeting, local grievance offices, independent audits, and penalties strong enough to deter repeat offences.

The EU shows the value of harmonised standards and visible accreditation; the US demonstrates the importance of licensing and active oversight. India can adapt these lessons to its own context, ensuring consumers are protected without stifling innovation. Left unchecked, digital marketing risks eroding the trust it depends on. Regulation is not the enemy of digital commerce; it is its insurance policy. By policing digital platforms today, India can ensure tomorrow's marketplace is one of trust, transparency, and genuine choice.

With rules, digital commerce can remain what it ought to be: a way to connect products with people, information with need, and commerce with consent.

KNOWN UNKNOWNS

The room within a room

Growing up, the most mysterious room in our house was the least sacred one. It was called the *puja* room, but in our largely agnostic household, it was known simply as the "dark room". Extra bedding was stored there. Old suitcases found temporary refuge there. At least once, after breaking curfew, I found myself locked inside it for an evening of enforced reflection. If the gods were present, they maintained a diplomatic silence.

The name carried additional resonance in our family. My grandfather, Tripuraneni Gopichand, wrote a celebrated Telugu novel titled *Cheekati Gadulu*, or Dark Rooms. His novel explored the invisible rooms created by habit, belief, and circumstance. Our household's dark room was far less profound, but the phrase always suggested that rooms acquire meanings beyond their physical walls.

A recent conversation with a friend of Punjabi roots confirmed that ours was not an isolated case. In her family, too, the *puja* room spent much of the year performing decidedly unspiritual duties. It doubled as storage and occasionally housed *chappal*s. Yet when festivals arrived, the transformation was immediate. Footwear disappeared, lamps were lit, prayers were offered, and the room resumed its sacred identity.

The story revealed something distinctly Indian. We seem remarkably comfortable allowing the sacred and the mundane to occupy the same space and then separating them when the occasion demands. Where did the Indian *puja* room come from?

The answer is that it is not as ancient as many imagine. Early Vedic rituals were conducted outdoors around sacrificial fires. Worship was communal and public. Image-based devotion, and the domestic shrines that accompanied it, became widespread much later. In many traditional homes, the sacred occupied a niche in a wall or a corner of the courtyard rather than a dedicated room. The separate *puja* room became more common in the twentieth century as homes grew larger and middle-class aspirations expanded. A study signalled education. A dining room signalled hospitality. A *puja* room signalled continuity with tradition. Ironically, this happened even as many urban families grew less observant in their daily religious practice.

Gopichand Katragadda
The former CTO of Tata Group and founder of AI company Myelin Foundry is driven to peel off known facts to discover unknown layers
@Gkatragadda

Yet the *puja* room survived. Some remained centres of worship. Others became repositories for blankets and cardboard boxes. A few alternated between the two depending on the calendar. The room endured because it represented something larger than ritual. It reserved a small portion of the home for something beyond immediate utility.

The concept is not uniquely Indian. Ancient Romans maintained household shrines. Traditional Chinese homes contained ancestral altars. Japanese homes continue to feature Buddhist altars and Shinto shelves. What is unusual about India is how persistent the idea has been. Even when belief weakened, the space often remained. The room adapted rather than disappeared.

Today, it continues to evolve. In apartments, it has become a cabinet. In compact homes, it occupies a corner of the kitchen. The room is shrinking, but the idea behind it remains resilient. Perhaps that is because every home and every person needs a *puja* room.

Not necessarily a place for gods, but a place set aside from daily clutter. A corner where memory, gratitude, and reflection can reside. Most of us carry such spaces within our minds. Over time, however, they tend to become storage rooms. We fill them with anxieties, resentments, unfinished obligations, and accumulated clutter. The inner room that might have held stillness, or wonder, or a sense of life's larger questions quietly fills with the furniture of distraction.

Occasionally, like my friend's festival room, we clear them out. We make space for what matters. We recover our values, our relationships, our awareness of what we owe to those who came before us. The clearing is rarely dramatic. It is more often a quiet act, undertaken at a moment of stillness or loss, a brief recognition that the clutter is not the room.

The remarkable thing is not that *puja* rooms become storage rooms. That is entirely human. The remarkable thing is that they can become sacred again.

Perhaps that is where the *puja* room will ultimately rest. Not as a room exclusively for gods, but as a reminder that every home, and every mind, needs a space reserved for something beyond utility. In an age devoted to productivity and consumption, that may be the most sacred function of all.

INSCRUTABLE CHINA

Can EU derisk its Beijing bet?

Structural readjustments are in the offing in the China-European Union (EU) relations. Last year, China skipped the 50th anniversary of ties in Brussels and has restrictions in place on critical mineral exports to the EU. The union suspended the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment signed with China in 2021. Now, more tensions are rising.

While several European leaders recently visited Beijing, including German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, and United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer, seeking Chinese investments and collaboration, escalating geopolitical and technological competition is threatening the China-EU equilibrium.

China's objectives towards the EU, enunciated in a Communist Party leader's 1977 editorial in the party mouthpiece *People's Daily*, are mostly fulfilled. First, Beijing wanted to explore the EU's common market and has emerged richer with EU investments, technology, market access, and managerial techniques. Economic integration intensified after China was admitted to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2001. China became the EU's second-largest trading partner with a trade surplus of over $4 trillion over the last two-and-a-half decades. Bilateral trade last year hit $826 billion. Nearly three million Chinese live in Europe.

Second, Beijing wanted to create fissures in the trans-Atlantic alliance by advocating multipolarity with France and other countries. The wars in Ukraine and Iran have disrupted the unity of NATO, which will help China's rise militarily. Third, the disruption of the dollar-centric global financial system, by encouraging the Euro and furthering a cross-border payment system. This project is not complete, but some EU countries are interested.

The EU, on the other hand, wanted to "deepen political dialogue" with Beijing, "support China's transition to an open society based upon the rule of law and respect for human rights", intensify China's integration into the global trade system, and raise the EU's profile in China. These objectives are half-fulfilled. After a series of 25 intense summit meetings, relations are undergoing major shifts. The EU 'Strategic Outlook' of 2019 termed China as a "partner for cooperation and negotiation, an economic competitor and a systemic rival".

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China's material support to Russia on Ukraine rattled the EU, which is now funding Ukraine's military operations. The EU's arms embargo on China following the Tiananmen Square massacre and sanctions pegged to human rights in Xinjiang and Tibet enraged Beijing, which responded with a 'Wolf Warrior' diplomacy. Lithuania bore the brunt of strengthening its ties with Taiwan.

In May this year, the EU considered the trade surplus in favour of China as "unsustainable" and called for strengthening the "de-risking" measures. These de-risking measures, aimed to reduce the bloc's economic dependence on China, include a diversification of trade (such as the Free Trade Agreement with India), the demand for reciprocal trade access, the launch of anti-dumping investigations and tariffs on China's Electric Vehicles, and an attempt to enact the Industrial Accelerator Act to restrict the import of China's EVs and batteries.

However, the EU is a divided house: Germany is concerned about its trade relations with Beijing, while Italy advocates stiff measures against China. Italy has also pulled out of China's Belt and Road Initiative. Central and Eastern Europe have eyed Chinese investments in infrastructure but have also wanted to address Beijing's coercive behaviour.

On the other hand, Hungary and Slovakia have courted Beijing; Hungary, especially, under its former leader, Viktor Orbán. China has invested more than $219 billion in the EU, mostly in Germany, Hungary, Mediterranean ports, and the railways. It is fishing in troubled EU waters by exploiting the union's incoherent trade policies and national security postures.

China has launched seven cases against European products at the WTO, while the EU launched 11 against China's intellectual property rights violations, state subsidies, non-reciprocal market access policies, and export restrictions on critical minerals since 2020. Both have resorted to the WTO's dispute resolution mechanism since 2009.

Beijing's export controls on 12 critical minerals, including graphite, germanium, and gallium, have hit Europe's EV manufacturing, solar, wind, and hydrogen industries. As a temporary measure, the bloc has established a "special channel" to secure these minerals from China, but the progress remains tardy and reciprocal gestures costly. The EU is also concerned about the cybersecurity risks from Chinese inverters that could enable remote grid disruptions. Several EU countries have stalled the integration of Huawei and ZTE telecom equipment, citing cybersecurity issues.

The road ahead for China-EU ties remains uncertain. While both camps are trying to manage the unbridled competition, geopolitical differences are intensifying, despite economic interdependence.

AS THE CROW FLIES

Cycling in the city? That's no walk in the park

Seshadri K S
is an ecologist and believes there is profound wisdom to be found in paying attention to the overlooked and the mundane

We cycled up to a recently rejuvenated lake on the fringe of north Bengaluru. It was just the two of us there, and we stopped to hear the chatter of Rosy Starlings on a fig tree. The idyllic setting was shattered by a home guard's shrill whistle. He rode up to where we stood on his rickety moped and shouted that cycles were not allowed in the park, and that we had to alight and push them out to the nearest gate. He whipped out his phone and took a picture of us, as if to bookmark our faces as they do with rowdy-sheeters. We grudgingly walked out and saw a sign with a laundry list of restrictions, and bicycles were in there, along with pets. The word 'notice' in red is likely an administrative long-form for 'No'.

Parks and lakes are the city's last few public spaces meant to be accessible to all, and yet, they have been monopolised by those going there for a walk or a run. Their influence is not merely restricted to how the park can be used, but also inspires the monotonous design: a walking pathway lined with pavers embanked by yellow-and-green kerb stones, an exercise station without clear usage instructions, and benches that face the pathway are characteristic features.

Having grown up cycling to the neighbourhood school, I recall bicycles being the primary mode of transport for many children. So much so that the school employed a guard to secure all the cycles with one long chain-link. Before the bell rang, the sound of the chain being yanked out was our cue that the end of the day was near. Last week, I passed by a school at closing time. The gates were open, and parents in their automobiles had blocked the road while picking up their children. The traffic snarl lasted nearly 15 minutes. It reminded me how the humble bicycle never caused this mess.

Our roads and footpaths are dangerous for pedestrians, making safe walking spaces an urgent priority. But the logic of keeping cycles out appears to be a case of usurping public spaces for exclusive use. Bicycles are conflated with vehicles and are banned in parks due to the risk of collisions with the walkers. The concern is real, given that park pathways are already narrow and often ill-designed.

Public spaces are already gentrified and operate with access restrictions. Banning cycles further alienates people from enjoying fresh air or the view enjoyed by the walkers. One could argue that cyclists belong on the roads, but the odds of being hit by an unruly automobile are equally high even for a cyclist. The inadvertent takeover of public spaces by one group of users is, however, not a solution to a shared problem. We should reimagine public spaces to be inclusive and think of creating zones in larger parks with dedicated cycling and walking paths. We could even introduce timeshares with exclusive cyclist access.

Bengaluru has flirted with prioritising bicycles, but the relationship has remained platonic. Dedicated bicycle lanes were created and abandoned, as have been the efforts to set up public cycling networks. The Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), on World Cycle Day in 2023, featured a special-issue newsletter titled *Trin Trin*. The document demonstrates clarity of thought in bringing cycles to the discourse for clean, efficient mobility. Urban planners outline cycling as a last-mile transport option and go as far as to envision cycle parking lots integrated into mass rapid transit stations.

Alas, all this remains on paper as DULT does not have statutory teeth. The Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), notified the same year with statutory powers, remains on paper. Worse, its draft rules announced earlier this year have provisions that make it easy to rubber-stamp automobile-centric infrastructure plans retrospectively. Sustainable transport will remain elusive without truly autonomous implementing agencies.

Countries such as Singapore have, for years, integrated the bicycle effectively into their mobility frameworks. In my graduate student years there, I spent several weekends cycling between parks on public bicycles. The Park Connector Network links housing complexes with parks via shared pathways for pedestrians and cyclists. People from all walks of life use the interconnected public spaces across the country, which is roughly as big as our city.

The Singapore dream was sold to us, too. Two decades later, we have imbibed the strict prohibitions sans the vision of a City in a Garden. Slapping a list of prohibitions on an iron gate is easy, but building connected, inclusive urban infrastructure is not. As *Trin Trin* falls on deaf ears, the guard's hurried whistles increasingly echo through our parks. Operationalising our own progressive mobility is certainly not going to be a walk in the park.

Fathers who do feelings

From school pickups to vaccination charts, fathers in urban India are stepping into roles that earlier generations rarely occupied, and in the process discovering that caregiving transforms not only children but also their own thinking and approach, writes **Tanisha Saxena**

On a Thursday afternoon last June, several hundred fathers sat in a New York conference hall and did something their own fathers almost certainly never did: spent an entire workday talking about feelings.

The 2025 Future of Fatherhood summit was not a support group. It was a reckoning — parental leave, boys' mental health, loneliness, emotional labour, co-parenting, modern masculinity — subjects that had, for decades, been quietly gathering dust at the margins of serious conversation, were suddenly placed at the centre of the table.

India's version of this conversation is unfolding on its own terms. Podcasts like 'DadSense', hosted by Subhasis Mishra, feature fathers speaking openly about grief, therapy stigma, and identity. Mumbai-based Yuvaa, co-founded by Nikhil Taneja, has built an entire media ecosystem around modern masculinity — its series, 'Be A Man, Yaar! and Be A Parent, Yaar!' bring public figures and families into candid conversations about loneliness, emotional distance, and fatherhood.

For generations, fatherhood occupied a peculiar place in how Indian men understood themselves. It mattered enormously, but quietly. A father's role was legible through provision — earning, maintaining authority, ensuring that the family's needs for roti, kapda, makan were met. Emotional caregiving was the other column in the ledger. Important, perhaps. But not his.

Tanvi Mankodi, an assistant professor at a management and research institute in Mumbai, argues that the shift runs deeper than parenting alone. "What is changing is not simply fatherhood but the social meaning of masculinity itself," she says — though she is careful about how that's framed. Care, protection, and emotional responsibility were never absent from fatherhood, she points out. What post-industrial life did was sharpen the line between breadwinning and caregiving, feminise emotional labour, and quietly push fathers to the edges of family life. "What may be changing today," she says, "is that men are increasingly being given permission to exhibit these roles more openly."

Permission. It is a strange word for something so human.

Hyderabad-based behaviourist Pranjal Mani Tripathi points to something that tends to get overlooked entirely. "Research shows that men undergo hormonal changes during the transition to fatherhood," he says. "One of the most significant is a decline in testosterone — fathers with lower levels tend to be more involved and responsive." But here's the thing: this shift is triggered largely by sustained time with a newborn. Which raises a question worth sitting with. Did older-generation fathers have fewer opportunities to express engaged fatherhood simply because prevailing norms kept them at a distance?

The fatherhood shift

1. Parenthood as identity: For many men, being a father is emerging as a core source of meaning, alongside – and sometimes beyond – work and status.

2. Caregiving is the focus: School runs, bedtime routines, and emotional labour are increasingly part of how fathers understand masculinity.

3. Parenting and loneliness: The demands of raising children frequently reveal how few emotional support systems many men have outside the family.

4. Juggling two ideals: They are expected to remain reliable providers while also being nurturing, and emotionally present parents.

5. Institutions are catching up: Workplaces, healthcare systems, and family policies continue to assume mothers are the primary caregivers.

(Inputs from sociologist Aruna Yadav)

The old saying, 'ghar ka mukhiya bahar sota hai', the head of the household sleeps outside — spoke to a time when fathers were expected to stand slightly apart from family life, commanding respect more often than offering emotional closeness.

Alternative models

A 2024 review of research on changing masculinities in Society and Culture Development in India argues that globalisation, consumer culture and new media have exposed Indian men to alternative models of manhood beyond the traditional breadwinner ideal. Yet the review also notes that older patriarchal expectations remain deeply embedded in social life.

In Bengaluru, 32-year-old software engineer Rishi Prasad used to be the person who remembered electricity bills, insurance premiums and loan payments. These days, he knows exactly when his daughter's next vaccination is due and starts asking about appointment slots weeks in advance. In Delhi, marketing professional Satyam's workday does not end when his last meeting does. Three afternoons a week, he leaves early to pick up his seven-year-old daughter from school before logging back on from home. "My father never knew which class I was in," he jokes. "I know the names of all her teachers," he adds.

In Mumbai, associate analyst Ketan Shah is the parent who responds most often to the school WhatsApp group, keeps track of vaccination schedules and remembers when project submissions are due. His wife travels frequently for work, making him the default point of contact for everything from parent-teacher meetings to unexpected sick days. In Gurugram, finance professional Nitin Bansal still sees himself primarily as the family's provider, but his evenings are structured around helping his son with mathematics homework and shuttling him to cricket coaching. None of these fathers would consider their routines extraordinary. Yet each is performing forms of care that, in many middle-class Indian households just a generation ago, would have been assumed to be a mother's responsibility.

Why change is so hard

The gap between what Indian fathers want to be and what structures allow them to be is not a logistical problem. It sits right in the middle of what it means to be a man in India. A 2026 working paper from Harvard Kennedy School, examining masculinity norms across eight Indian states, found that traditional provider expectations remain powerful — especially among men navigating economic uncertainty. Youth unemployment in India hovers around 15 per cent. Among university graduates, it is nearly 29. For men whose identity is built around the promise of stable employment, the arithmetic is brutal: the cultural expectation of being a breadwinner has intensified at precisely the moment the labour market has made it harder to meet.

Gurugram-based Nikhil Gupta, 29, became a father to twins six months ago. "I want to give more time to my babies and help my wife," he says, "but there's a lot of uncertainty in my business at the moment." He pauses, then finds the right words for it. "I feel like I'm constantly negotiating between being present at home and being responsible for keeping things stable financially. Even when I'm physically there, my mind is often split in two."

Jayanth Neelakanta, founder and CEO of a Bengaluru-based startup says, "Corporations are, surprisingly, ahead of society on this one. The shift is real — but it moves strictly from the top down. When a senior leader openly steps out for a school play or actually takes paternity leave when his child arrives, it signals to every man at work that it's acceptable to do the same. That trickle-down effect? Right now, it's the only direction this is moving."

But while policy debates play out in boardrooms, science has been making a far more radical argument.

Dr Anindo Bhattacharjee, a behavioural scientist, takes it further. "Neuroscience flips the question entirely," he says. "We tend to ask what involved fathers do for their children. But caregiving rewires the father himself. Hands-on parenting lowers testosterone, raises oxytocin, and actually grows the empathy-related regions of his brain — empathy isn't just a prerequisite for caregiving. It's a product of it."

Dr Pretty Duggar Gupta, a consultant psychiatrist at a Bengaluru hospital, has observed the pattern in her clinical work.

On what she sees fathers carry home from the threshold of parenthood: "Many fathers report that becoming a parent stirred something unexpected in them — a desire to confront unresolved emotional wounds, sharpen their communication skills, seek therapy, or simply show up with greater presence for their partners and their households," she says. "Children absorb far more than we tell them. Long before a parent explains what an emotion is or how to manage one, children are already watching — mirroring the emotional patterns modelled at home with striking fidelity."

The benefits, she adds, rarely stop with the father alone. "They ripple outward, quietly shaping the emotional architecture of the children around him — children who grow up more emotionally articulate and, in many cases, more resilient in the face of adversity. What emerges, over time, is something closer to a virtuous cycle: one man's willingness to do the interior work gradually becomes the emotional inheritance of an entire family."

Complicated shift

Caring masculinity is gaining ground globally, but in India, the shift is especially complicated. Here, patriarchy isn't just a workplace attitude — it's built into parenting itself. The preference for sons over daughters, still visible in skewed sex ratios and in how attention, food and ambition are distributed within families, means gender inequality is reproduced at home, from birth.

"An Indian father who wants to parent differently is therefore fighting two things at once: his own upbringing, and a cultural script that has always defined fatherhood as providing and commanding, not nurturing. Caring masculinity asks men to treat nurture as a genuine male trait — but in conservative social structures, caregiving belongs to women, and fathers are expected to supervise, not show up," explains Dr Anindo.

The disparity is hardly surprising. Caring masculinity remains easier to imagine than to practice in many of India's smaller cities and among economically vulnerable households. A 2025 study published in PLOS ONE exploring the caregiving experiences of fathers from low-income urban communities in Bengaluru described men navigating unstable employment, rigid gender norms, and a near-total absence of paternal support programmes.

Many worked long hours in the informal sector with no paid leave, making regular childcare involvement structurally difficult. Vipin Kumar, 31, who grew up in a lower-middle-class family in Bengaluru says, "I believe these topics — caring masculinity, involved fatherhood — are a talk of the privileged. I don't even get to see my one-year-old because I'm doing double shifts just to keep things financially stable. Even on holidays, I'm not that involved a father. It's not the norm in my family."

Falling into similar patterns

Ankur Srivastava, who is raising two daughters in Uttar Pradesh, holds a more complicated self-portrait. "I always wanted to be that cool father to my daughters — and to a certain extent, I am," he says. "But when I see myself within my joint family, I realise I'm not doing as well as I'd like to think. I catch myself falling into the same patterns my father had with me."

His daughters are seven and five. The moments that catch him off guard are not abstract. When his younger one throws a full tantrum on the floor of a crowded market, he feels his jaw tighten — the same instinct his own father had, to silence rather than soothe. When the older one comes home crying because a boy in class said something cruel, he tells her to ignore it and move on, because that is what he was told. After all, sitting with a child's tears is something no one ever modelled for him. When they climb all over him during a family gathering, his uncle shoots him a look — and without quite deciding to, he stiffens, sets them aside, straightens up.

He loves his daughters fiercely. But love, it turns out, does not automatically come with a new language — especially when the one you grew up speaking was mostly silence.

Engaging with emotions

Yet that struggle itself may be part of a larger shift. As more fathers become involved in caregiving, they are often pushed to engage with emotions, relationships and vulnerability in ways previous generations of men were not. Over time, it may even reduce some of the emotional isolation that has lingered in many men's lives for decades.

It can also diminish the stigma around vulnerability and seeking support. "From a psychiatric perspective, one of the most encouraging developments is the growing recognition that strength and emotional openness are not opposites. In fact, they can coexist within the same person. Even if that shift feels unfamiliar at first, fatherhood continues to evolve, and it may ultimately become a key ingredient in building healthier models of masculinity — models that benefit not only men themselves, but also their families and society as a whole," concludes Dr Pretty.

Talk more, judge less

What new fathers feel – and why they rarely say so:

- Nearly half of fathers with infants report feeling lonely.
- Fatherhood often disrupts the social routines that sustain men's friendships.
- Men tend to have fewer close confiding relationships that survive major life transitions.
- As caregiving demands rise, many fathers quietly lose contact with friends.
- Men are less likely to disclose loneliness, thereby making the problem harder to spot.
- Emotional support from trusted friends and healthcare providers can reduce paternal loneliness.

Source: Midwifery (2026); interviews with psychologists and behavioural scientists.

While aiming to capture the magnificent history of the Indian circus in an unforgettable work of fiction, this book ultimately falls short of its ambitions, writes Saudha Kasim

Not a SHOWSTOPPER act

The bulk of the novel is about the travails of the circus in Rangoon as the Second World War heats up, and the company's long trek back to India. (PIC FOR REPRESENTATION)

THE GREAT KANCHANA CIRCUS
Vishwas Patil
Ekada, pp 392, Rs 499

I must have been six years old when I was taken to the circus for the first time. I don't remember much of the experience except that there was a huge tent, probably red, and trapeze artists flying across the air. Where personal memory fails, my family steps in: they won't stop reminding me — especially my sister — that when one of the acts came on with a lion and my father pointed at the animal, I loudly and confidently proclaimed in Malayalam that it was just a cat, a poocha. My father tried convincing me that it was not an ordinary cat, but I stuck to my guns. Maybe I couldn't fathom a lion obediently jumping through rings with such ease and, rather than attributing it to the skill of a lion tamer, decided it was just some domesticated Garfield dressed up as a big cat.

Kanchana Shinde, the heroine of Vishwas Patil's Marathi novel, The Great Kanchana Circus, would have probably evaporated my six-year-old self's scepticism by thrusting her head into the jaws of Lakshmi the tigress — the showstopper act of the circus founded by her father, Sarang Daaji Shinde.

We are told at the start that Sarang's company has, in the 15 years of its existence in the early 20th century, already "earned for itself a place among the top circuses of the world."

Sarang, who was born in Kaagwad, a town "at the border of the Bombay Presidency and state of Mysore", joins the British Indian army, but his army career ends when he disobeys his commander's orders to kill women and children. Distressed and humiliated, he lives for a time in Ambala and marries a young widow named Shaira. She dies giving birth to their daughter, Kanchana, and Sarang decides to return to Kaagwad. Bored with his monotonous existence, Sarang visits Jejuri, where he joins Parshuram Mali's circus troupe, having impressed with his equestrian skills.

Over a period of two years, he learns everything there is to know about managing a circus and harbours ambitions to start his own.

At a Dusshera procession in Kolhapur, Sarang calms down an elephant that has been hurt by an errant firework, and the king gifts him not just that animal but also a calf and seven horses.

Thus begins The Great Kanchana Circus, a big enough tent to have a diverse set of artistes from various religions and castes. Kanchana grows up in this environment and travels the length and breadth of the subcontinent, impressing the audience and the circus troupe with her ability to tame animals and also her acrobatic skills. Suitors come calling at Sarang's door for Kanchana's hand, and she falls in love with Raghav, who is an expert equestrian.

Love's course doesn't move along smoothly — Patil is rather overfond of contriving inconveniences and then resolving them with deus ex machina like storms over Calcutta or runaway horses or elephants or hippos (take your pick) — but they marry eventually. Indian independence activists use the circus as a means to communicate with fellow revolutionaries and travel around the country. There are encounters with the colonial police and acts of sabotage, which always seem to end in the bloody deaths of circus animals. The bulk of the novel is about the travails of the circus in Rangoon as the Second World War heats up and the company's long trek back to India. Large numbers of humans and animals die in bombings and attacks by enemy soldiers, while some characters seem to die only to reappear later, blessed with invincible plot armour.

Patil has done a lot of research into these early 20th-century circus companies, and it shows, often to the detriment of the narrative flow. The constant accounting of the number of horses, elephants and acrobats numbs the reader's mind. It also doesn't help matters that Kanchana is a thinly drawn character with barely any inner life depicted on the page — she's brave and ballsy and has a soft spot for animals and children, and that's about it.

The English translation is weighed down by lifeless, pedestrian prose, and dialogues at times include questionable racial descriptors.

Consider this exchange when Kanchana and another character come upon an abandoned Rolls-Royce with a dead Tamil chauffeur on the road in Burma:

"'Why would this poor chap have stayed back?' queried Kanchana.

'The mechanics and the others would have moved ahead, but this honest Dravidian Indian must have hung back out of loyalty to the vehicle, waiting for the help he had been promised.'"

When the Gemini Circus — one of Kerala's storied companies — pitched its tent in my hometown, Thrissur, this summer, a hoarding promised a robotic animal kingdom.

The videos on social media showed a circus well past its glory days, with tired performers and audiences bored by mechatronic elephants and lions. In his afterword, Patil laments the decline of the Indian circus, aiming at animal rights activists who brought to an end live animal acts under the big tops.

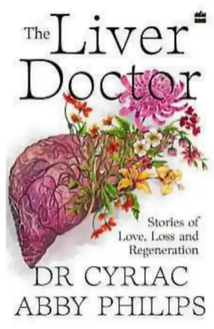
The amazing Indian trapeze artists, acrobats, horse riders and elephant trainers, inheritors of a glorious history, deserve to be immortalised in an unforgettable work of fiction. The Great Kanchana Circus, unfortunately, doesn't quite fit the bill.

Inside the Liver Doctor's world

The famed Kochi-based hepatologist takes readers through a journey where science confronts human predicament and ethical dilemmas, writes M K Chandra Bose

For a layman, the liver is an enigma, the only human organ that regenerates. Doctors treating liver diseases like cirrhosis face multiple challenges, such as difficult diagnoses and long-term care. The costly treatment, transplantation in particular, is a big drain on the resources of patients' families. The issue has become complicated with many hospitals putting a premium on profit. The Liver Doctor, Stories of Love, Loss and Regeneration, authored by Dr Cyriac Abby Philips, puts in perspective the complex world of liver health.

The famed Kochi-based hepatologist takes readers through a journey where science confronts human predicament and ethical dilemmas. It is an honest look at healthcare with a human touch. Drawing on his vast experience, Dr Philips, better known online as Liver Doc, reels out poignant stories from hospital corridors, establishing an emotional connection with readers. The ordeal that patients and their families undergo, survival and loss, uncertainties, compassion and indelible memories overwhelm a sensitive reader. While the stories are about rare liver diseases, herbal liver injuries, drug-induced injuries and the effects of alcohol, they also throw light on the deep scars left on the hearts of doctors. The medical narrative turns out to be highly engaging while laying bare complex scientific facts in simple terms.



THE LIVER DOCTOR
Dr Cyriac Abby Philips
Harper, pp 408, Rs 499

While treating end-stage liver disease, the counselling of the patient's kin is a delicate task. "In those final moments, what matters most is not medicine or machines, but memories, connection and the special moments spent together." Dr Philips recalls the strange request from a young dying patient's wife — whether he could retrieve her husband's sperm for her to have his child. "I lost weeks of sleep and appetite, trying to help them be together, fighting against all odds," he recounts. He also remembers a surprising response from a 19-year-old girl who wanted to study clinical psychology. "I want to listen to people and speak to them, to heal them. Like you did with me." "Patients come and go, but memories remain, and I will keep them as sweet scars in a corner of my heart," he says. He also explores ancient myths and legends associated with health care.

As an ardent advocate of science-led medicine, Dr Philips has taken an uncompromising stand against alternative medicine, landing him in legal trouble. He has proved through scientific tests that Herbal and Dietary Supplements (HDS) are liver-toxic. Once, after the death of a patient (Meera) due to liver injury caused by a weight loss drug, he published the report in a respected scientific journal. But the manufacturer, a multinational firm, forced the publication to pull down the article from all online sources. However, he could protect his scientific integrity as Meera's story gained global publicity through the intervention of Dr Elisabeth Bik, a renowned Dutch microbiologist and data sleuth who exposes cases of scientific fraud.

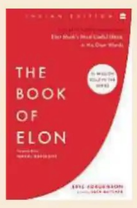
For Dr Philips, clinical medicine is nothing without humanism. He considers the disease that strikes without warning the ultimate equaliser. "In medicine, offering comfort to the dying and hope to the hopeless demands not just skill, but deep humanism," he asserts. He contends that medical science is not only about diagnosis and treatment, but it is also about care. It is not just medical books that teach us clinical medicine; it is the patient. The more you care for them, the more you will learn to beat the odds, he adds. Gradually, Dr Philips began to consider himself a teacher after extensive personal engagements with patients. He wonders whether doctors must shift from saving lives to helping patients understand death with dignity.

The Liver Doctor also discusses the limits of medical intervention while debunking misconceptions about health and wellness. It is storytelling at its best, weaving together human suffering, the trials and tribulations of patients and their families, compassion and scientific data. The author displays a remarkable passion for storytelling with empathy. This book is not meant only for medical professionals. While providing valuable medical information, the immensely readable volume may unsettle some readers.

BOOKRACK

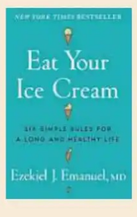
THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF FOOTBALL
Brian D Bunk
Picador, Rs 599
This book traces the incredible history of football, comprised of both glories and tragedies: from muddy World War I trenches to the stadium-palaces of Saudi Arabia; the ancient Mayans to Lionel Messi.

YESTERYEAR
Caro Claire Burke
Fourth Estate, pp 400, Rs 599
When she wakes up in a distorted, deeply unsettling version of her own reality, what begins as a biting critique of curated online perfection spirals into something far darker, stranger, and impossible to escape.



THE BOOK OF ELON
Eric Jorgenson
Harper, pp 400, Rs 499
Musk's mindset is laid out clearly in this book, the result of five years of work, distilling millions of words into an easy read. This isn't a biography or a cheesy self-help book but a guide in Musk's own words.

CHAND BIBI
Sarah Waheed
Vintage, pp 480, Rs 899
Deeply researched and narratively evocative, this is the definitive portrait of a woman who fought for her homeland and sought to unify a fractured region and of the quest to bring her story back into view.



EAT YOUR ICE CREAM
Ezekiel J Emanuel
Penguin, pp 256, Rs 999
The author distils the science into six simple, high-impact pillars: nutrition, exercise, sleep, alcohol, mental acuity and social connection. No fads. No extremes. Just evidence-based guidance on what actually works.

A season of longing and desire

This is a wonderfully evocative read where the author elaborates on how the monsoon shapes our history and culture, writes Nimesh Ved

The Fragrance of Rain drenches you right from the first page. The author, Stephen Alter, enjoys being amidst the rains and writing, and this book allows him to share these joys with us. His deep connection with Landour, its biodiversity, is apparent: "Here in these delicate yet resilient landscapes, the rain means as much to those minuscule species as it does to us". He also takes us to Goa and Kerala. He brings in references, walks in forested lands, and also engages with people to bring out and to highlight, the monsoon's role in our lives. This he does with an uncommon grace and flair in language. The length of the book, 140 pages, 10 chapters — 11 to 17 pages each, belies its scope and the depth it explores.

I have waited a long time for someone in love with rain to write on petrichor, and the author does this eloquently: "A sweet, slightly musky odour, fresh, yet with a hint of decomposing leaves, it had a sensual, alluring perfume". He also gets into the science behind the rains and the genesis of the monsoon. He brings out the connections — how monsoon winds led to shipping, which led to trade, which led to faith, or how rains and water defined our festivals; and contradictions — this is a season which gives most illnesses and is also the one which is considered most romantic. He also dishes out facts we discuss less — during the monsoon, plants are weak and so are those eating them. Bringing these, and other, aspects together, he discusses how the monsoon has shaped our past and thus today, reminds us how it is an integral part of our lives, our history — "It is not an exaggeration to say that every culture that has existed in India was nurtured and shaped by the presence of monsoon".

THE FRAGRANCE OF RAIN
Stephen Alter
Aleph, pp 140, Rs 499

The author is in his elements when he talks about the arts; "In poetry, art, and music, the monsoon evokes a complex range of moods and emotions, many of which are associated with longing and desire". He quotes a range of poets from Mirza Ghalib to Mamang Dai. And, of course, Kalidasa; I wonder at the magic of Kalidasa's creations that we continue to pay our respects to him when we talk about the monsoon hundreds of years after he wrote them! I wish, though, that the book had the original poetry as well and not just the translation! The book also talks about Nainsukh, the 18th-century painter from Punjab, known for his miniature paintings. The author is equally at home when he engages with people like Kuldip Topo (naturalist), Vivek Sarkar (scientist), and he refers to works of those like Edward Lorenz (meteorologist), Katie Field (biologist), and Claudia Prekel (scholar).

He does not shy away from talking about the dangers stemming from increasing illegal constructions and tourist numbers, and warns us that while each untimely downpour is not driven by climate change, the frogs and beetles going silent during monsoon nights are surely a cause for worry. However, despite the wide range of people he interacts with and refers to, there is no mention of the underprivileged of Mussoorie, Landour, Dehradun, Goa and Kerala — How does the monsoon treat them? How do they see the monsoon?

As I read, I planned to underline words I seldom use or lines that I could quote later, and I happily ended up using my pen a lot!

I love rain, and the book reminded me of my years in Meghalaya and Mizoram, where I enjoyed walking amidst the rains, the sound of the rains on the tin roof, and the clouds all around. Waterfalls were special, especially during the monsoon, and the author has described them in a befitting manner: "In some ways this is the purest form of motion, unconstrained and guided only by the invisible hand of gravity". I am all enthused for a trip to Landour.

Read the book if you love rain, enjoy reading travelogues, or if you enjoy the company of good English prose. It may also make you observe and connect with the world around you better. "Climatic events like the monsoon are not isolated in time or space but are dynamic, ever-changing phenomena linked to everything."

Despite the wide range of people he interacts with and refers to, there is no mention of the underprivileged and how they deal with the monsoon.

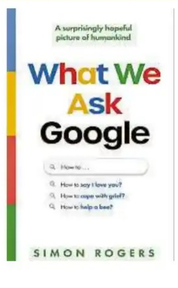
READ OF THE WEEK

Ever wondered what goes through other people's minds, our silly questions, inner anxieties, hopes and dreams?

In What We Ask Google: A Surprisingly Hopeful Picture of Humankind, Google Data Editor Simon Rogers explores insights from the world's biggest dataset: an epic snapshot, two decades long and counting, of our collective brain. What it reveals about us might surprise you. Brimming with insights that range from the playful to the profound, What We Ask Google delves into the momentous and the mundane secrets of what we ask when we get the chance, offering a surprisingly hopeful picture of humankind.

Simon Rogers is Google's Data Editor, leading a team of data journalists, analysts, and visualisers to tell stories with Google's data. Previously, he was Twitter's first-ever Data Editor, and he is also the author of Facts Are Sacred (2013, Faber & Faber), based on the Guardian's Datablog, which he helped launch.

A lecturer in Data Journalism at Medill-Northwestern University in San Francisco, Simon has received the Royal Statistical Society's award for statistical excellence in journalism and been named Best UK Internet Journalist by the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford.



Hashtag resistance

India's trans community has used humour to critique the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill. It has parodied famous songs and employed clever hashtags that have gained popularity on social media, writes Chintan Girish Modi

Hashtags riffing on popular songs were used to offer resistance to the Bill. ILLUSTRATION COURTESY: PRIYANKA PAUL (@ARTWHORING)

The Indian Parliament succeeded in passing the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill earlier this year, despite loud and unanimous protests from the very community that it claims to protect. This is the height of irony: a weapon masquerading as armour.

India's trans community have, however, refused to crawl back into the closet. They have been out on the streets, and in the digital public square, asserting their collective strength. Their resistance is both ferocious and tender, fuelled by joy and humour. The hashtag #BillTohKachchaHaiJi (and its differently spelt versions) which set social media on fire, is a riff on the song 'Dil Toh Bachcha Hai Ji' that noted lyricist and poet Gulzar wrote for Vishal Bhardwaj's film Ishqiya (2010). Cleverly substituting 'dil' with 'bill' and 'bachcha' with 'kachcha', this hashtag calls out the half-baked quality of the legislation because it lacks inputs from the community it was meant to benefit. 'Badtameez Bill', the song that trans artist Anshumaan Sathe sang at the protest held at Mumbai's Azad Maidan, is a parody of 'Badtameez Dil' written by Amitabh Bhattacharya for Ayan Mukerji's film 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' (2013). By calling the bill 'badtameez', translated both as 'ill-mannered' and 'uncultured', it throws a moral challenge to a legal mandate. It questions the attempt to police gender identity and expression by demanding that trans people present themselves before a medical board and a district magistrate for certification. The hashtag and the parody draw on shared cultural knowledge to ridicule the powerful, who are far removed from the daily struggles faced by a community that lives on the margins of society. When protestors use language in such creative and subversive ways, they plug into a longer tradition of court jesters, stand-up comics, graffiti artists, and graphic novelists. The humour becomes a safe container to deliver their message effectively, and bypass political censorship.Garvit Garg and Shikha Rai from the School of Journalism and New Media Studies at the Indira Gandhi National Open University looked at 18 political parody songs to examine how they work through 'frame-shifting'. In their study titled, 'More than a laugh: examining the role of parody songs on Indian political discourse', they show how these songs establish a cognitive frame through familiarity, then disrupt it by tweaking the lyrics to make listeners construct new meanings.

NOT ONLY BUT ALSO

Take the song, 'Dil Toh Bachcha Hai Ji,' for instance. Gulzar's lyrics, set to music by Vishal Bhardwaj and sung by Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, are about a man whose heart remains childish and unruly even though his body has been growing older. #BillTohKachchaHaiJi, on the other hand, hints at various shades of meaning implied by the word 'kachcha'. The legislation is raw, weak and unsustainable. It might have been received differently had it been shaped by the lived experiences of people from the trans community.

'Badtameez Dil', written by Amitabh Bhattacharya, is about a stubborn heart that refuses to be reined in by logic. It has been repurposed to offer legal critique. The original, set to music by Pritam, and sung by Benny Dayal, shifts from its playful register to an accusatory tone in its parody avatar. A law that does not care for the well-being of the oppressed deserves to be mocked.

What could be more strategic than using a song that is heard at weddings, on public transport, and in nightclubs?

Emotional connect

When protests ride on songs already buzzing inside people's heads and dancing on their lips, they are able to strike an emotional connection that goes deeper than any press conference or white paper.

This is what Garg and Rai call 'affective leverage': beloved melodies break through cognitive defences, so political commentary feels less like a sermon and more like an inside joke.

The ones having the last laugh though are trans people themselves. They have been around forever, and will continue to exist far into the future, unlike law makers who occupy rickety seats that might seem like thrones but are actually cages that bind them with the fear of losing power.

(The author is a journalist, educator and a literary critic.)

Four **waves of** feminism

Feminism is not a singular construct that is immutable.

Much like other movements, the feminist movement has also been responding to socio-political and cultural events across the globe.

The movement has been perceived largely through four waves, with the first wave taking shape in the 19th century in the Western world. The right to vote for women was one of the leading causes that was taken up back then. Women's role in politics was a key topic of debate in this period.

The second-wave, which started in the 1960s, responded to concerns around family structures, reproductive rights, and inequalities on the legal front. The third wave saw the shaping of concepts like intersectionality and trans feminism. Intersectionality is the idea that one cannot separate gender from other social frameworks like class, religion or sexuality while trans feminism has it that the empowerment of trans women is deeply intertwined with the empowerment of all women.

We are currently seeing fourth-wave feminism, which took shape in the 2010s. The focus of fourth wave feminism, especially over the last few years, has been around sexual harassment, rape culture, and body shaming, among others.

The fourth wave has been characterised by social media commentary and hashtags. It is also a wave that's largely driven by a digital-first world. One of the key movements of this wave was #MeToo and the protests around the 2012 Delhi gang rape. The fourth wave has also taken up intersectionality with gusto — rights of Dalit women, transgender and queer individuals have also been discussed by activists.

(Curated by Savitha Karthik)

*(**Decoded** demystifies gender concepts and breaks them down into easy-to understand language.)*

Sri Lanka: A fine blend

The island nation has many flavours to it, from the undulating landscapes of Kandy to the manicured tea gardens of Nuwara Eliya, and ocean-kissed beaches of Galle, writes Raghu Gururaj

Sri Lanka had long existed in my mind as a collage of tea gardens, myth and coastline. When I finally set foot on the island, it revealed itself as something far richer — a place where nature, history and legend are seamlessly intertwined.

A short flight from Bengaluru brought us to Colombo, where formalities were swift and unobtrusive. The transition from airport to open road was equally smooth. As we drove towards Kandy, the landscape unfolded in calming shades of green. Well-marked roads, minimal noise and a perceptibly cleaner atmosphere made for a striking first impression.

Elephant orphanage

Our first halt was the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, located en route to Kandy. Home to dozens of rescued and orphaned elephants, it offers a rare opportunity to observe these animals up close. Watching them amble into the river and splash about with uninhibited ease was both delightful and grounding.

Kandy, set amid undulating hills, presents a curious blend of bustle and charm. Once the last stronghold of the Kandyan kingdom against colonial powers, it continues to embody Sri Lanka's cultural and historical core.

At the centre of the city lies Kandy Lake, an artificial expanse built in 1807 by the last Kandyan ruler, Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe. Encircled by walkways and shaded by trees, it provides a tranquil counterpoint to the city's energy. A drive along Upper Lake Road offers sweeping views of the lake, colonial-era buildings, and the surrounding hills.

Bahiravokanda Vihara Buddha statue at Kandy. (PHOTO: YVES ALARIE / UNSPLASH)

Venerated site

A short distance away stands the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, among the most revered Buddhist sites in the world. In spite of the steady stream of pilgrims and visitors, the sanctity of the space remains intact. A brief glimpse of the golden casket housing the relic is a moment that lingers.

Overlooking the city from Bahiravokanda is a towering white Buddha statue, visible from almost every part of Kandy. The vantage point offers a panoramic perspective of the city, particularly striking at dusk.

An evening cultural performance at the Kandy Lake Club proved to be one of the highlights of the visit. Traditional Kandyan dancers, resplendent in elaborate costumes, performed to the rhythmic beats of indigenous drums. The fire-walking finale, in particular, was both dramatic and memorable.

Kandy to Nuwara Eliya

From Kandy, the journey to Nuwara Eliya is a study in transition. The air grows cooler, the terrain more dramatic, and the landscape opens up into vast stretches of tea plantations interspersed with waterfalls and mist-covered hills. Often referred to as 'Little England', Nuwara Eliya retains a distinct colonial imprint, with its quaint cottages, manicured gardens and temperate climate.

Yet, it is the tea estates that define the region. Endless rows of neatly pruned bushes sweep across the hills, creating a visual rhythm that is both soothing and expansive. A walk through these plantations offers a closer look at the lives of tea pluckers, whose labour sustains one of Sri Lanka's most iconic industries. The contrast between the idyllic surroundings and the rigours of their daily work is hard to ignore.

The region also forms a significant part of the Ramayana trail, adding a mythological dimension to its natural beauty. The Sri Bhaktha Hanuman Temple at Ramboda, perched atop a scenic hill, is believed to mark the spot where Hanuman rested during his search for Sita. Nearby, the Ramboda Falls cascade dramatically in multiple tiers, offering a spectacular sight.

Equally evocative is the Sita Amman Temple, believed to be located at the site of Ashok Vatika, where Sita was held captive. The temple, vibrant and deeply symbolic, draws visitors from across India. Local lore speaks of Hanuman's footprints in the vicinity and a nearby stream that is said to have served Sita during her captivity. Whether viewed through the lens of faith or folklore, the site carries a distinct resonance.

The surrounding forested area, now part of the Hakgala Botanical Gardens, adds to the sense of immersion, blending mythology with natural splendour.

Onwards to Galle

The final leg of the journey took us to Galle, a coastal town that feels markedly different from the rest of the island. Its colonial past is evident in its architecture, narrow streets and laid-back ambience.

The Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site originally built by the Portuguese and later expanded by the Dutch, stands as a testament to this layered history. Walking along its ramparts, with the Indian Ocean stretching endlessly beyond, is an experience that captures the essence of the town.

Colombo, in comparison, remained a transit point — efficient but overshadowed by the richness of the island beyond it.

A week in Sri Lanka is enough to offer a glimpse, but not nearly sufficient to grasp its full character. What makes the island truly compelling is not just its scenic diversity or historical depth, but the way these elements coexist with everyday life.

In the end, Sri Lanka reveals itself not merely as a destination, but as an experience — one that lingers long after the journey ends.

(The author is a retired ambassador and former Indian foreign service officer.)

The lighthouse at Galle.

Endless stretches of tea plantations. PHOTO: ROWAN HEUVEL / UNSPLASH

As Goa gears up for the São João celebrations, which also mark the beginning of the monsoon, Raul Dias takes a look at the region's lesser-known sweets associated with this time of the year

Banana halwa, a rich Goan dessert.

Sweet tidings: It's feast season!

Every year, as the monsoon settles over Goa and feast season approaches, certain smells return with remarkable clarity. The pungent aroma of jackfruit steaming in rice batter. Turmeric leaves releasing their perfume over bubbling pots. Coconut and jaggery slowly coming together over a patient flame. Long before I learnt to write about food, these were the fragrances that announced celebration.

My earliest encounters with Goa's festive sweets came through the hands of my indulgent grand aunts, whose kitchens seemed permanently occupied during feast season. They worked without recipes, measuring by instinct and experience, producing sweets that appeared only at specific times of the year. Through them, I discovered that every feast had its own flavour, every sweet its own story and every season its own rituals.

When festivities begin

The festive cycle begins with São João, celebrated on June 24 in honour of St John the Baptist. Marking the arrival of the monsoon, the feast is known for flower crowns, music and the joyful tradition of diving into wells. For me, the feast of São João was announced by the appearance of jackfruit in every conceivable form.

Among the treats I awaited most were donos, also known as mandos, soft dumplings made from ripe jackfruit pulp, rice flour, coconut and jaggery. Steamed until tender, they captured the essence of the season. Their funky fragrance filled the kitchen long before they reached the table, and the first bite delivered the sweetness of the world's largest fruit at its peak. Jackfruit was abundant during the monsoon months, and donos were rarely prepared in small quantities.

Platters travelled between homes, accompanied by gossip and the steady rhythm of rain outside. Looking back, they remain among the most evocative expressions of Goa's seasonal cooking.

Wrapped in faith

By August, attention turned to the Feast of the Assumption on August 15, one of Goa's most significant religious celebrations. For many families, the feast is inseparable from patoleo, those steamed turmeric-leaf parcels that are filled with grated coconut and jaggery.

Part of their appeal lies in the ritual itself. The leaves are folded carefully around the filling and steamed until their distinctive aroma permeates every layer. Unwrapping a patoleo is an experience in itself, releasing a fragrance that speaks of rain-fed fields and generations of tradition.

The feast tables of my childhood also featured muttleo, delicate karanji-adjacent, crescent-shaped pastries stuffed with coconut, jaggery and, occasionally, toasted sesame seeds.

Fried until golden and scented with cardamom, they arrived in generous batches and disappeared with remarkable speed.

The season often brought another cherished tradition: the son-in-law feast. It was during one such celebration that I first encountered jacadá, a glossy confection of coconut and cashews that's cooked slowly over a steady flame.

Patoleo, a steamed sweet made with rice flour and jaggery.

The sweet lacked the fame of bebinca and dodol, yet its chewy texture and nutty flavour gave the confection a character that's entirely its own.

Hidden treasures

Some of Goa's most intriguing sweets occupy a curious place in the culinary repertoire. They are prepared for special occasions and increasingly difficult to find outside family kitchens.

One such sweet is figadá, made with dried figs, crushed almonds and reduced milk. Rich and distinctive, it hints at the trading influences that shaped Goa's food culture over centuries.

Another is chunn, a dense sweet with notes of caramelised sugar and a slightly crumbly texture. It was never the most eye-catching item on the table, but appearances proved deceptive. Its satisfying depth ensured that it rarely lingered for long.

Then there were filos, delicate rice pancakes whose name derives from the Portuguese word for "threads". Rolled around a filling of fresh coconut and jaggery, they offered a pleasing contrast to the richer sweets served during feast days. Watching them being made was part of the enjoyment; eating them completed the experience.

Among the rarest treats of all was toucinho do céu, the almond-rich cake whose name translates as "bacon from heaven". Despite the title, there is no pork involved. Instead, ground almonds, sugar and golden egg yolks come together in a dense cake scented with lime zest.

Prepared only during important celebrations, its rich crumb seems to bridge continents and centuries. Reflecting the Portuguese influences that became woven into Goa's culinary identity. Today, it is seldom seen, but its flavour remains unforgettable.

Slow satisfaction

Traditional Goan halwa occupies a category of its own. Distinct from versions found elsewhere in India, it can be made from taro, cucumber or banana and requires patient cooking until it becomes glossy and almost translucent.

The banana variation remains my favourite. Prepared with jaggery and coconut milk, it possesses an earthy quality and a restrained sweetness that lingers gently. It taught me an important lesson about food: subtlety can be every bit as compelling as extravagance.

These sweets may never enjoy the popularity accorded to Goa's better-known desserts, yet they remain among the state's most eloquent culinary expressions. As São João approaches each June and the Feast of the Assumption follows in August, I find myself thinking of those grand aunts once again. Of the sweets they indulged us with. There can be no greater inspiration than that — a cuisine carried forward by generations of quiet devotion.

Muttleo, delicate karanji-adjacent crescent-shaped pastries.

WHAT'S COOKING

A light jackfruit salad.

JOYS OF JACKFRUIT

The jackfruit is truly versatile. Raw jackfruit can be worked into many savoury dishes, while the ripe variety is used in a wide range of desserts.

If you have raw jackfruit at home, you can use it for biryani after marinating the chopped fruit in yogurt and spices, and layering it with basmati rice. You can also use jackfruit chunks in tikkas and cutlets. Boiled jackfruit seeds are used in South Indian curries and sambars. A popular jackfruit recipe is the Sri Lankan curry, called polos ambula, made of tender, unripe jackfruit, skinned and cut into chunks. It uses spices and coconut milk with a dash of curry powder. Jackfruit is also thinly sliced and fried crisp into chips. Want something simpler? How about a typical Karnataka-style palya or stir-fry of jackfruit, with a seasoning of mustard seeds, curry leaves, cumin and grated coconut?

You can also use jackfruit in a salad with other vegetables like cucumber, bell peppers and carrots, and a sprinkling of herbs. Raw jackfruit is used in Thai dishes such as Pad Prik King, where shredded raw jackfruit is stir-fried in a flavourful Thai red curry paste, ginger and kaffir lime leaves.

The raw version of jackfruit is rich in nutrients such as vitamin C, vitamin B6, riboflavin, magnesium, and potassium. It is a good source of antioxidants. While the unripe version has a lower glycemic index of 40-50, the ripe and sweet variety has a higher GI of 75, so if you are diabetic, keep your consumption moderate to low.

Ripe jackfruit can be used for payasam/payasa, a traditional South Indian dessert made with the pulp of jackfruit, simmered with milk and jaggery. The fruit is also used to make halwa, sweet appams or crispy, fried dumplings made by grinding soaked rice, jackfruit and coconut, and pouring batter into a pan.

Curated by Savitha Karthik

*(**What's Cooking** shines the spotlight on a single ingredient, its nutritional qualities and the ways in which you can use it.)*

Wellness

Time to FLEX those muscles

Dreaming of a 'dad bod'? Indian men need to pay attention to boosting muscle mass and strength rather than just weight loss in order to beat sarcopenic obesity, writes Jayashree Bafna

Talk about men's health, and the conversation invariably revolves around the dad bod or the growing potbelly. While excess abdominal fat deserves attention, experts are increasingly warning about another condition that often goes unnoticed — sarcopenic obesity.

Simply put, sarcopenic obesity is the combination of excess body fat and reduced muscle mass and strength. It is possible for a man to have a growing waistline while simultaneously losing muscle. For many Indian men, especially after the age of 40, this may represent a greater long-term health concern than weight gain alone.

Traditionally, obesity is assessed using body weight, body mass index (BMI) or waist circumference. While these measures remain useful they do not reveal what is happening to muscle mass. Two men may weigh the same and have similar waist measurements, but if one has significantly lower muscle mass and strength, his health risks may be considerably higher.

Emerging evidence suggests that sarcopenic obesity may be a more clinically relevant indicator of health risk than obesity alone. A 2024 review published in Nature Reviews Endocrinology highlighted its association with insulin resistance, cardiovascular disease, frailty and reduced physical function.

Indian men vulnerable

South Asians are known to develop metabolic complications at lower BMI values compared to many Western populations. We tend to accumulate abdominal fat more easily and often have lower muscle mass relative to body size. Studies from India have reported sarcopenia prevalence ranging from approximately 10–30 per cent among middle aged and older adults with even higher rates among individuals with diabetes, obesity and metabolic disorders. This means that sarcopenic obesity may be far more common than most people realise.

Hidden signs that men ignore

Sarcopenic obesity does not always announce itself clearly. The weighing scale may remain relatively stable while body composition changes significantly over time. Possible warning signs include:

- Increasing waist size despite stable body weight
- Thinner arms and legs but a larger abdomen
- Reduced grip strength
- Difficulty carrying heavy grocery bags
- Climbing stairs feels harder than it did a few years ago
- Difficulty getting up from the floor without support

Protecting muscle and reducing fat

One of the biggest nutritional gaps among Indian men is inadequate protein intake. Many men consume enough calories but fail to consume sufficient high-quality protein to support muscle maintenance. A practical strategy is to ensure every major meal contains a clearly identifiable protein source rather than treating protein as a side dish.

Transform breakfast into a muscle-friendly meal. Breakfast is often the most carbohydrate-heavy and protein-poor meal of the day. After an overnight fast, muscles require amino acids to stimulate muscle protein synthesis and support maintenance.

Evidence suggests that muscle maintenance is supported when protein intake is spread across meals rather than concentrated in one sitting. Aim to include protein at breakfast, lunch, evening snack, and dinner.

Avoid the muscle-loss trap during weight loss. For men above forty, preserving muscle should be a priority during any weight-loss effort. Avoid extreme calorie restriction, juice cleanses, liquid diets, fruit-only dinners and frequent meal skipping. Rapid weight loss may appear successful on the weighing scale but if significant muscle is lost in the process, long-term health and metabolic function may suffer.

Nutrition alone cannot preserve muscle. Strength training provides the stimulus needed for muscle maintenance and growth. Even two to three sessions per week can make a meaningful difference to muscle health and body composition.

Recovery matters

Muscle health depends not only on what happens in the gym or at the dining table but also on recovery. Prioritise adequate sleep, consistent hydration, stress management, and frequent movement breaks during the day. These habits support muscle repair, recovery, and one's overall metabolic health.

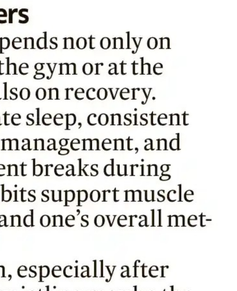
For Indian men, especially after forty, a growing waistline may be the visible problem but shrinking muscle is often the hidden one. Healthy ageing is no longer just about losing weight; it is about preserving strength, mobility, independence and metabolic health.

(The author is a consultant dietitian and certified diabetes educator.)

THE MOST AFFECTED

While ageing is a major contributor, sarcopenic obesity is no longer considered a problem only of the elderly. Men who may be at higher risk include:

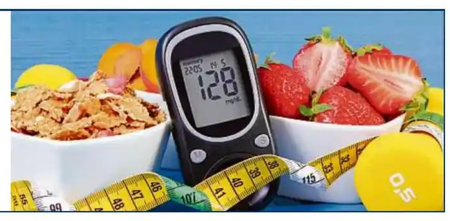
- Those over **40 years** of age
- Corporate professionals with sedentary jobs
- Men with prediabetes, type 2 diabetes, high triglycerides and fatty liver disease
- Those who have repeatedly lost and regained weight
- Men who have stopped exercising after their 30s.



DAILY HABITS THAT SIGNAL A CRISIS

Most people assume the condition develops simply because of inactivity. The reality is more complex. The common everyday mistakes include:

1. Protein-poor breakfast
2. Sitting for long periods
3. Weekend warrior syndrome (working out only on weekends)
4. Repeated crash dieting
5. Poor sleep and chronic stress



Kidney cancer: Do genes put you at risk?

DR PRASAD NARAYANAN

Any talk of cancer is always followed by the question, "could this have been passed down to me?" When it comes to kidney cancer or renal cell carcinoma, the answer is more nuanced than a simple yes or no.

It is important to understand the picture better. The numbers are sobering. In 2022, nearly 4,35,000 new kidney cancer cases and 1,56,000 deaths were recorded worldwide and researchers project those numbers could double by 2050 if current trends continue.

As per the American Cancer Society data, the Unites States alone is expected to see an estimated 80,450 new cases to be diagnosed in 2026 alone. This is not a rare disease affecting a few. It is a growing global crisis. The majority of these cases are driven by lifestyle issues like smoking, obesity, hypertension, and diabetes. More than 50 per cent of all kidney cancers worldwide are due to preventable factors such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, chronic kidney disease, smoking, environmental exposure, and lack of physical exercise. These are cancers caused by acquired mutations over a lifetime. Not something inherited at birth. That said, an estimated five to eight per cent of kidney cancers are hereditary, often linked to mutations in specific genes. This is where your family history becomes important.

The most well-known hereditary syndrome is Von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease. A variant in the VHL gene common in individuals of African ancestry has been associated with an estimated three times higher risk of developing clear cell renal cell carcinoma, the most common subtype. Science is rapidly expanding our understanding of genetic risk. A recent large-scale genome-wide study involving over 29,000 people with kidney cancer identified 50 new genomic regions associated with kidney cancer risk, bringing the total known regions to 63. An expanding list of genes is now linked to kidney cancer development, underscoring genetic underpinnings that extend well beyond the classic hereditary syndromes.

Importance of genetic testing

Genetic testing is indicated for patients diagnosed at a young age, those with multifocal or bilateral tumours, anyone with a family history of at least one first or second-degree relative with kidney cancer, or those with histological features associated with hereditary syndromes. If any of these apply to you or your family, seek genetic counselling. It can protect not just you, but your children and siblings too. It means we need to watch more carefully. While new diagnoses of kidney and renal pelvis cancer are on the rise, deaths have remained steady, a testament to what early detection and modern treatment can achieve.

The overall survival rate ranges from 40 to 75 per cent at five years after diagnosis, depending on the cancer and patient characteristics, a range that reflects just how much the stage at diagnosis matters.

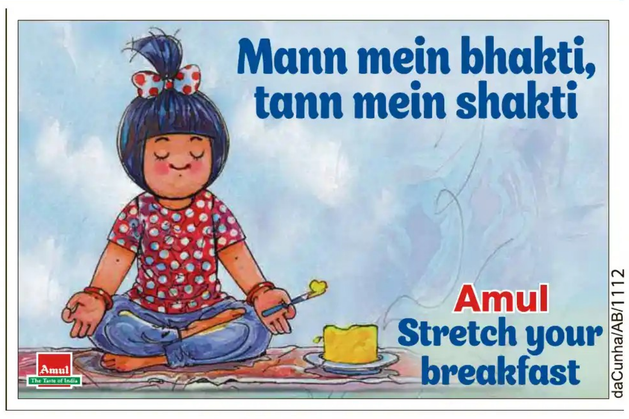
An important aspect of therapy is to integrate molecular profiling and precision oncology into every treatment plan, ensuring it is tailored to each tumour's biology. The best outcome is always the one achieved before cancer advances. Know your family history. Talk to your doctor.

(The author is a lead consultant – medical oncology, haemato-oncology and bone marrow transplant at a Bengaluru hospital.)

ON THE PALETTE

An invitation to pause

Amidst climate anxiety and vanishing urban greenery, an ongoing exhibition in Bengaluru proves that plants actively shape politics, economies, and everyday life, writes Asra Mavad



On a quiet afternoon inside the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP), a centuries-old painting of a flowering plant does something unexpected. It slows you down.

The petals are painted with microscopic precision. Making you wonder if such precision is even attainable by humans. Every vein of a leaf is carefully observed, every stem rendered with patient attention. At first glance, the works in 'Paper Gardens: Art, Botany, and Empire' appear delicate, even calming. But the deeper one walks into the exhibition, the more these images begin to reveal another story. One of colonial ambition and its expanse, forgotten labour, ecological memory, and Bengaluru's own uneasy relationship with nature.

The exhibition is a collaboration between MAP and online platform Impart and is running till July 2026. It brings together more than 120 works spanning the 17th to the 20th centuries. Botanical paintings, hand-coloured lithographs, illustrated manuscripts, textiles and archival material sit pretty within the walls of MAP. It is the first Indian institutional survey of botanical illustration from the subcontinent at this scale, and perhaps fittingly, it unfolds in Bengaluru, a city that still clings to the fading title of 'Garden City'.

For many Bengalureans, the city's gardens hold a special place. Cubbon Park at dawn. Rain-darkened trees lining old avenues. The sudden burst of pink tabebuia flowers in summer. Nature in the city has long offered relief from its traffic, construction dust and hurried pace. The exhibition taps into that emotional memory, while also simultaneously complicating it.

The story begins with the Empire. Between the 17th and 20th centuries, British colonial administrators and botanists carried out extensive plant surveys across the Indian subcontinent. Plants were collected, classified, transported and cultivated across imperial networks. Botanical illustration became central to this enterprise, functioning both as scientific documentation and as a tool of control.

Mangosteen, or Mangostan, Curtis' Botanical Magazine, 1855.

The exhibition asks a simple question: who actually made this knowledge possible?

Forgotten artists

Curator Shrey Maurya points out that botanical images were never the work of a lone European scientist. Behind every illustration existed large networks of Indian artists, gardeners, guides, plant collectors and local communities whose ecological knowledge shaped colonial botany. Most remained uncredited.

Some names survive in fragments. Artists such as Vishnuprasad, Gorachand, Govindoo, Rungiah and Haludar appear across the exhibition — painters whose technical brilliance matched any European botanical illustrator of their time, yet whose histories remain largely absent from mainstream narratives of science and art. "Many of these artists worked with extraordinary technical precision, yet remained marginal within histories of science and art. Research by scholars such as Dr Henry J Noltie has been crucial in recovering some of these names from archival records and institutional collections at Edinburgh and Kew. We only wish we knew more about them as individuals," shared Shrey.

One striking work, Leicesteria formosa from Plantae Asiaticae Rariores (1831), pairs scientific precision with extraordinary artistic sensitivity. The flowers appear almost luminous against the page, carrying traces of Indian miniature painting traditions even within rigid scientific conventions.

Botanical illustrations often feel serene because plants themselves invite contemplation. There is something instinctively calming about observing leaves, flowers and organic patterns. However, at every stage, the exhibition reminds you to look beyond the beauty and delve deeper into its history.

Lost gardens

In Bengaluru, the relationship between humans and nature feels especially charged today.

As glass towers replace tree cover and roads widen at the expense of footpaths and canopies, the city's identity as a garden city feels increasingly fragile. The exhibition does not romanticise the past, but it reminds one that Bengaluru's green identity was itself shaped through layered histories of exchange, adaptation and colonial intervention.

Lalbagh, for instance, began as a royal garden under Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan before becoming a major colonial botanical centre under the British administration. Foreign ornamental species were introduced and acclimatised here, many of which continue to define the city's visual character even today. A piece of information that every local happily boasts about.

Walking through the exhibition, one begins to notice how deeply plants shape memory. Certain trees instantly evoke neighbourhoods. Certain flowers held the power of igniting deja vu, reminding me of school mornings and monsoon walks. While the artwork was intended to record just the species, it ended up recording emotional landscapes.

The exhibition also highlights how local South Indian plant names entered global scientific vocabulary centuries ago. "A fascinating thread was the discovery that local South Indian plant names entered European scientific taxonomy very early on in the history of botany. I particularly enjoyed discovering that when Carl Linnaeus — the Swedish botanist who invented the binomial system — gave the first scientific names to plants from the Indian subcontinent, he turned to the Hortus Malabaricus (1678–93), which records over 700 plant species and their local language names. As a result, scientific names of some plants, even today, are based on the original Tamil or Malayalam names. For example, elengi becomes Mimusops elengi in Linnaeus's Species Plantarum (1753)," elaborated curator Shrey.

Leicesteria formosa from Plantae Asiaticae Rariores, Volume 2, 1831.

These details quietly challenge the assumption that scientific knowledge flowed only from Europe outward. Instead, the exhibition reveals colonial botany as a deeply collaborative process.

A carefully painted fruit study. A curling vine stretching across aged paper. The astonishing patience required to observe a plant so closely before photography existed. In an era dominated by screens and shortened attention spans, these works almost demand a slower way of seeing. Perhaps that is what makes the exhibition resonate beyond art history.

At a time of climate anxiety, shrinking biodiversity and disappearing urban green cover, 'Paper Gardens' quietly argues that plants are not background scenery. They shape economies, politics, cities, migration, memory and everyday life.

Outside the museum, Bengaluru continues its restless expansion. Metro pillars rise, roads choke with traffic, and old rain trees disappear overnight. Yet inside these galleries, preserved on fragile sheets of paper, plants endure with startling vitality. And for a brief moment, the city feels capable of slowing down again.

MUSEUM MATTERS

Tuning into the past, Texan style

A small-town museum in the US dedicated to broadcasting offers a captivating portal into media history, writes Rameshinder Singh Sandhu

The Texas Broadcast Museum is not just a museum but a world wrapped in nostalgia. It is a place where time capsules roll freely through more than twenty galleries filled with vintage radios, television sets, cameras, phonographs and even retired mobile TV vans.

Located in the small East Texas town of Kilgore, the museum opened about a decade ago, thanks to the vision of two local friends, Warren Willard and Chuck Conrad.

"I actually started it as a virtual museum in 2002 to display my personal collection. In 2010, I met Warren, who shared a similar interest. We began thinking about creating a real museum. After all, the online response had been encouraging from both young and old," says Chuck, the museum's executive director. "Thankfully, many like-minded people joined us and helped make it a success. We get visitors from everywhere, and they truly immerse themselves in the experience," he adds.

Ever since it opened, the collection has continued to grow, thanks in part to donations from families not only across Texas but also from different parts of the United States and the world. Visitors are often surprised when museum staff switch on radios and television sets dating back to the 1920s and '30s.

The surprise deepens when they notice the remarkable craftsmanship, creative designs and imposing sizes of these machines, many built primarily from wood and leather.

You can listen to broadcasts on old radios from the 1930s, including the distinctive 'cathedral radios', named for their arched shape. Another notable exhibit is the VE 301 Volksempfänger, the original Nazi radio introduced in Germany in 1933. In the television gallery, sets from different eras stand lined up with antennas and wooden shutters, reminders of a time when television was the centrepiece of the family living room.

Radios from different eras displayed at the museum. (PICS BY AUTHOR)

The phonograph gallery houses a model based on the device invented by Thomas Edison in 1877. The atmosphere changes instantly when one of the phonographs is played, and music fills the room. The collection also includes vintage stereos, some designed for cars and others for home use.

However, it is the cameras that truly elevate the excitement because of the historic moments they once captured. The museum displays 120 cameras, with another 75 in storage, making it one of the largest such collections in the world. The Norelco PC-60 was used for America's Lawrence Welk Show. A Marconi camera, manufactured in England, was the type used by the BBC to cover major events, including Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation. The RCA TK-44, a colour camera introduced in 1968 and used until 1987, broadcast New York Yankees baseball games.

A well-travelled ESPN broadcast van, retired in the 1990s after covering numerous sporting events, is also housed here. Step inside and imagine the frenetic activity it once witnessed. In 1981, it broadcast the inauguration of Ronald Reagan as President in Washington, DC. There is also a television van used by a Dallas TV station that covered the assassination of John F Kennedy on November 22, 1963, along with many other historic events in and around Dallas until the 1970s. Wandering through these vehicles feels a bit like stepping onto the set of a television studio.

For a more hands-on adventure, do not miss the museum's working television studios and radio station. While they do not broadcast outside the museum, visitors can try their hand at various roles, from operating cameras and working behind the scenes to hosting a talk show or playing songs requested by fellow visitors.

One final tip: strike up a conversation with some of the museum's older visitors. Many have fascinating stories about growing up with radios, televisions and other technologies on display. Their memories add another layer to an already enriching experience.

(Ticketed admission; guided tours available; photography permitted; small museum-themed gift shop on site.)

Vintage television sets at the museum.

DAB HAND

Stories that do not need words

Memory lingers in rust-coloured landscapes and watchful eyes, in Shanaka Kulathunga's paintings, writes Shilpi Madan

The recent exhibition, 'Silent Stories', by Sri Lankan artist Shanaka Kulathunga, presented by Gallery Silver Scapes, brought 35 artworks to India in the painter's first major solo exhibition in the country. Rich with cultural narratives, urban scenes and seascapes, the collection draws deeply from the landscapes and lived experiences of the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean'.

The title, 'Silent Stories', reflects the quiet yet powerful nature of Kulathunga's work. "Each painting invites the viewer into a space where meaning unfolds without words, through observation, emotion and stillness," says Shanaka. "My seascapes especially evoke a meditative calm, where subtle shifts in light and form create a sense of inner reflection. The exhibition is about experiencing art beyond language, where silence becomes a space for connection," he adds.

Curated by Archana Khare-Ghose, the showcase also marks the launch of a publication dedicated to the artist's practice. "Shanaka's work carries a quiet intensity that stays with you," says Archana, adding, "There is a strong sense of observation and empathy in his practice, where everyday moments are transformed into something deeply contemplative. This exhibition opens up a dialogue between closely connected cultural contexts."

Rendered in oil on canvas, the works invite viewers into the artist's memories, experiences and emotions. Shanaka credits his training under his guru, Chandraguptha Thenuwara, for shaping his technique. "I approach each work with patience and discipline, allowing the process to guide the outcome. Growing up in and around Colombo deeply shaped my artistic vision. My experiences extended beyond the city into rural Sri Lanka, carrying with them a strong sense of childhood nostalgia and life in suburban landscapes. The people, places and environments I encountered, along with my exposure to different communities and their beliefs, especially their connection with nature, have been constant sources of inspiration. My work reflects these layered experiences, translated through memory and emotion onto the canvas," Shanaka explains. Geometric forms recur throughout the collection: the wheel of a carriage, the sweep of arches rendered in sepia tones, and the angular notation of folded limbs. Echoes of Indian mythology emerge in fluid depictions of swans, herds of sacred cows and a serene rendering of the reclining god Ganesha.

"My understanding of anatomy helps me structure my figures, while psychology allows me to express emotion and inner states," says Shanaka. "I try to balance physical form with emotional depth so that both human and animal figures feel alive, not just visually but psychologically." A palette of ochre, brick, rust and terracotta runs through the works, while expressive eyes convey emotion in silence. Time, he says, was one of the greatest challenges in creating the collection.

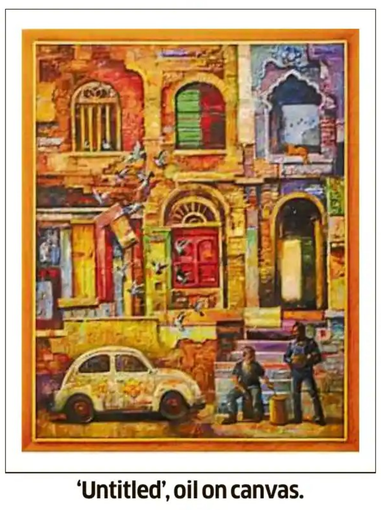
"Each painting required hours of focus and patience. Some took more than a month to complete, making the process both demanding and deeply immersive." The body of work has evolved gradually over the years, shaped by observation and experience, with every composition carefully conceived before execution.

"Greenery, birds and open landscapes are closest to me. My early life in Sri Lanka created a deep connection to these themes, and they continue to resonate strongly in my practice." As for what lies ahead, the artist hopes to expand his reach beyond India.

"I look forward to growing with Gallery Silver Scapes and taking this journey to new geographies and audiences. I hope to continue evolving my practice while sharing my work on a larger global platform."

'Trinity of Being', oil on canvas.

'Lucimangel', oil on canvas.



'Untitled', oil on canvas.

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